

Shark Bait Dive Club



E-Newsletter
August/September 2006

Congratulations to new **Divemasters James Judd and Regina Magno-Judd!
Job Well Done!**



Sharkbait Dive Club members joined about 40 other divers at Underwater Phantaseas annual Turquoise Lake getaway held August 4 – 6, 2006. A great time was had by all even with the cold and wet weather.

Friday evening started out with divers arriving at the campsite and pitching their tents. Some divers (yes, they are Sharkbait Club members) denied themselves of bonding with the great outdoors and opted to stay in Leadville at a hotel.



Saturday morning arrived with the sun shining and the water sparkling. Everyone met at the rendezvous point for the morning activities. The goal was to dive and find two golf balls per person. Once everyone had their two golf balls, it was a mad frenzy to find more. The more golf balls you found, the more chances you had of getting prizes. A four point navigation course was set up and divers were awarded another chance for a golf ball if they successfully navigated the course. Word from the rumor mill was that some people didn't have to do all four points, they just did two and found the found the basket of balls...also, there still might be a couple of people swimming around Turquoise

Lake looking for point number 3...hmmmm...sounds like whomever set the course needs a refresher in navigation ;)



Saturday afternoon was left open for people to head into town to enjoy the festivities of Boom Days. At around 2:00pm, the clouds came and brought along the rain and cold.



Everyone was due back at camp at 6:00pm for prizes and food. It was still raining and very cold, but everyone was a bunch of troopers. The group met at the designated tent and Derrick set up the prizes on four different tables. Each golf ball had a number. When a range of numbers was called, divers who had golf balls with those numbers were assigned a table to pick a prize from. The Wolves made out with a nice AquaLung regulator while Kevin Scofield walked away with a new dive computer. All in all everyone was a winner! Everyone then enjoyed a nice bbq dinner brought up from Denver.



The DUMB Divers and the SharkBait Dive Club had their first encounter. Although the two clubs were clearly divided, they tolerated each others company and interacted cordially with each other. Some smart @#@ remarks went back and forth, and there was thought to be a rumble, but it all worked out. Until we meet again....

Note: Due to weather conditions, not many pictures were taken, but if you have any pictures from the weekend, please feel free to submit them for posting on the website.

With kids heading back to school, and people traveling for work, the rest of August flew right by. Some divers did head back to Turquoise for the first DUMB Divers and Sharkbait Dive Club dive along. Jim Longwell learned to use a drysuit. The water was pretty cold, so most people stuck with one dive, but James Judd and Jim Longwell stuck it out for a second dive...way to go boys!

At the beginning of September, James and Regina Judd headed to Monterey, California to visit family. While there, they set up three days of diving. Below is their trip report.

The first dive was at Whaler's Cove in Point Lobos State Park. The park allows only 15 two person teams a day to dive, so if you are heading down on a weekend, make reservations way in advance. Weekdays are usually open.



We did one dive on Thursday, September 7th. Water temperature was a cool 53 degrees and we went to a depth of about 45ft. The kelp forests were in full bloom. Tons and tons of starfish were scattered on the sandy bottom. Around the kelp, rock fish swayed in the current. While investigating an area of rocks, I noticed a tug on my fins. At first I thought I was getting caught up in the kelp, but when I looked back, a cute little harbor seal was behind me just staring at me with a mischievous little grin on its face. Harbor seals are known to hang out with divers and nip at their fins. It's an experience one never forgets and always brings a smile to the face. As James and I kept swimming, the seal would play hide and seek behind the kelp and rocks. We headed back to shore and geared down. FYI the area has a nice rinse station so you can clean everything right away. Bathrooms are also available for changing.



Friday, September 8th

Newly certified Patrick Camargo, who is also a member of the club, drove down from Red Bluff, California to join us on our second day of diving. We did two dives at the Breakwater or also known as the Coastguard Pier. This dive site is located right off Cannery Row and the dive shop we used (Monterey Bay Dive Center) is about 1000 yards from the entry point. This was Patrick's first ocean diving experience. The first dive was alongside the pier. We had to surface swims about 200 yards out and then we descended to about 32 ft. On the right side is the pier and all along it is rocks and kelp.

Starfish are everywhere! If you look closely, decorator crabs are scouring along the rocks. Fish jet in and out of the kelp. Just along the rocks but in the sandy area, another harbor seal cruises past us checking us out. Just as we were ascending, a sea otter came down to check us out and then disappeared.



The second dive we stayed at Breakwater but instead of diving at the pier, we headed out into the kelp forest to explore. We surface swam for about 100 yards and then descended to about 25 ft. Once down, we swam into the kelp forest. In the distance another harbor seal was spotted swimming by, but did not hang around to investigate us. Tube anemones covered the sandy bottom. James found two rainbow nudibranchs together. There was a canon that had a Geocache box next to it. A bird dove down to catch some food and swam by. A giant Sunflower Starfish was hanging out on a big boulder.



Saturday, September 9th

The day started out overcast with the typical Monterey Bay fog bank. The boat was scheduled to leave at 7:00am so that required us to be at the pier no later than 6:45am. The dive boat was called the Silver Prince.



The first dive site was the Far East Pinnacles located in Carmel. The boat ride was about an hour long and the swells were pretty big. I was not feeling to well, but managed. James did fine, but poor Patrick was starting to feel it once the boat anchored at the site. So, the rush was on the get suited up and into the water. There was quite a current so we were told to descend on the anchor line. Once down it was up to me to navigate to the kelp forest. Well, let's just say we didn't make it to the forest but found a really cool wall. All along the wall were strawberry anemones, crabs and coral. The color was

absolutely amazing. Also, let me tell you...this was my first time diving in surge and boy, was it an experience. There's nothing like kicking ten leg kicks and then being sent back another twenty. It was a lot of work, but fun! We went down to about 67ft and the water temp was a cool 53 degrees. The visibility was at about 40ft, but due to the overcast conditions, it almost felt like an early evening dive.



So, again it was up to me to navigate back to the boat. Well, let's just say that we made it back. We had a little bit of a surface swim, but hey, we made it back. Once we got on the boat we still had another team of two to wait for. Poor Patrick was not feeling too well again. We fought the sickness for a while, but well, sorry Patrick, he chummed the water. Hey, it's nothing to be ashamed of...I can admit that I chummed the water in Florida...a couple of times... Once we got moving to our next dive site, Patrick was feeling better, but decided not to dive the second dive.

Our second dive took us to Hopkins Reef. James and I had dove this site before and really enjoyed it, so we were happy to be back. This site is located inside the bay. It a research area for Stanford University so it is buoyed off. Not boats are allowed to anchor within the reserve, so we anchored just outside of it. We were told not to touch anything while down there, even if it looked like it didn't belong, because it could be an experiment.

We descended down to a sandy area to about 30 feet. The area was covered with tube anemones. We then headed to an area that we were familiar with and had luck with encountering harbor seals.

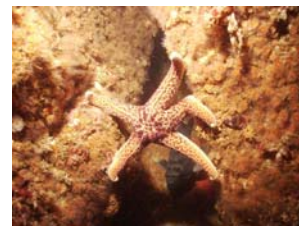
We swam around for a while looking at everything, James taking pictures and then we noticed a harbor seal swimming around, checking us out. When James tried to take a picture it would disappear, so we continued doing our thing. I was swimming ahead of James looking at stuff on the bottom. When I turned around to check on James, I noticed he wasn't behind me, so I backtracked and found him staring at a huge boulder...I didn't know what to think, so I swam towards him and then noticed that he was taking a picture of a harbor seal not 3 ft away from him. I slowly swam up behind James and could not believe my eyes. The seal was actually posing for James!!!!

It started one pose by lying down and then switched to his side for the next pose. The seal then moved away from the rock and just kind of floated on the sand looking at James, almost inviting James to scratch his belly. At first I thought the seal was sick,

because it moved so slowly, but when it was time for him to get his air, he shot straight up to the surface and disappeared.

That was the most amazing thing I have ever seen!!!! We then headed back to the boat. Once on board I asked James if he thought he got a good picture and he said that he hoped so, but wasn't too sure (what do you think? See picture below).

The boat headed back to the pier and we were done with our diving in Monterey. We had an absolutely great time and the diving was wonderful!!! We go back every year, and when we do, we will continue to let the club know and hopefully others will join us.



For more pictures from our trip to Monterey, go to www.sharkbaitdiveclub.com and click on "Photos" and then click on "Click Here" at the top of the page to go to the Monterey photo album.

We would love to hear about other trips and places to go. If you would like to tell members of places you have visited and have any photos, please submit them to info@sharkbaitdiveclub.com .

Our first club meeting is schedule for Wednesday, October 18th at 6:00pm at Old Chicago located on Wadsworth and Hampden. Please let us know if you will be able to make it by sending an email to infor@sharkbaitdiveclub.com so we can get an area big enough for our group. We look forward to seeing you there.

Upcoming Trips:

2 - 4 -1 Bahamas Trip

Imagine yourself diving all morning and then sitting on a deserted beach with your Corona all afternoon! We are also looking into some exciting surprises for this trip too!!!! You can't pass up on 2 - 4 - 1! Check out www.sharkbaitdiveclub.com for full details!

FIJI with the Wolff's is coming up the end of January!

Check out www.sharkbaitdiveclub.com for full details! This should be an exciting adventure full of wonderful diving!!!!

Diving is life; everything else is just a surface interval!

Shark Bait Dive Club