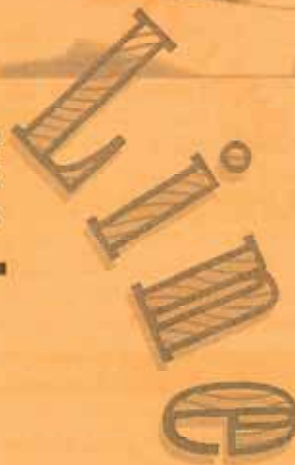


The Buddy



The Newsletter of the Northern California Rainbow Divers
A Scuba Diving Club for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgendered Divers and Their Friends



Notes from the Board

By Secretary Lisa Newman

The January board meeting was held Thursday the 20th with all in attendance but Peg Stone. We hope you are feeling better, Peg!

The board approved unanimously, a four day November 2000 Vision trip to the Southern Channel Islands. The trip will be similar to the November 1999 Vision trip, with an added day to explore the underwater beauty of the southern islands, San Clemente and Catalina. Peg Stone and Paul Duhamel pro-

posed and are looking into the possibility of the April 2001 Vision trip including underwater photography lessons for those divers interested.

Paul Duhamel has booked one-half of the Cypress Sea on March 25th for those divers wanting more boat diving experience. The Cypress Sea will navigate the waters of Monterey Bay, offering two dives and all the fun that can be had! For more details see the Events Calendar or contact Paul Duhamel.

A proposed East Coast Wreck Diving trip was discussed for this summer. Chris Hunrath expressed interest in leading a trip to dive the wrecks off North Carolina and is researching the possibilities. Stay tuned for further information!

On one last note, Gay Pride is fast approaching. The club needs members to help-out for both San Francisco and San Jose prides. For those interested in volunteering their time and organizational skills, please contact Ralph Wolf.

February Program: Underwater Photography and Videography for all

By Tom Martinchek

Interested in trying underwater photography for the first time, or improving the skills that you already have? Intrigued by the latest underwater video technology? Then you won't want to miss the February 8 meeting, hosted by NCRD members and accomplished underwater photographers Marla Jurosek and Jim McDermott. Marla and Jim will discuss their experiences starting out in underwater photography/videography, and how they developed their skills to advanced levels. The program will include slides and video, as well as a discussion and display of some of the equipment used by photographers at all levels, from novice to advanced.

You won't want to miss this meeting if you've never been on one of NCRD's popular Vision trips to the Channel Islands. Still can't decide

whether you want to sign up for the April Vision trip (there are still a few available spots)? Marla will premier her fabulous video from the November trip to the southern Channel Islands. She used a state-of-the-art digital underwater video camera. Many of us on the November trip had the pleasure of previewing some of Marla's unedited footage, and it's something you won't want to miss. See you there!

FUTURE PROGRAMS: CALL FOR IDEAS

As the new Program Director for NCRD, I look forward to coordinating monthly programs in the coming year that members will find scintillating, fun, helpful and informative. But, I can't do it alone!

So ... if you have a creative mind and have ideas for programs that haven't been done before (or pro-

grams that have been done that you particularly enjoyed), let me know. The more ideas I receive, the easier it will be for me to arrange programs that everyone will enjoy.

Better yet, if you or someone you know has a special skill (diving related), or knowledge that other members might find useful or interesting, I am also looking for volunteers to host future programs.

Feel free to contact me at home (415) 626-9637, or by e-mail at martith@sf.seyfarth.com. Or, simply find me at the monthly NCRD meeting.

Club Meeting

February 8, 2000

Tuesday

7:00 PM

St. Francis Lutheran
Church



Grrrl divers beat the weather

By Kathy Conte

It was a warm and sunny Saturday at Breakwater when five NCRD grrls hit the water. Maureen McEvoy, Susan Liroff, Kathy Conte and new club members Nicole David and Kristin Barker dove in 55 degree, absolutely flat, clear water. Monterey Bay was like a lake of glass. Without surge and waves, getting in and out of the water was a breeze.

We did two dives, ate a leisurely lunch, lounged in the warm sun and relaxed. There was some brave talk of joining the boys for a couple of dives in the afternoon but by the time those layabeds arrived we had done and seen it all and were ready to head home.

We left just in time. That night the heavens opened and monsoon season officially started. My dive



Kathy Conte is taking in intern for the lesson in napping-in-between-dives.



gear was hanging outside and got an extra rising. Further proof that grrls have great timing.

The next grrl dive will be on Saturday, March 11 at Pt. Lobos. We have six spaces available so sign up early.

Reach Out and Touch Someone: Tools for Staying Active

By Ralph Wolf

NCRD is growing and changing. We have members throughout the Bay Area, and as far away as Florida, Illinois, Canada, and even Europe. We know it's just not practical to come to every club meeting, if you live in the Bahamas or work in Milpitas. So how's a queer dive-addict supposed to stay in touch?

Reading the newsletter is a great start, but you can also find out about club dives at our website, www.rainbowdivers.org, or create your own impromptu dive trips with the help of the club's buddy roster or email repeater.

Of course the newsletter and website are already fabulous, but I've recently gotten a few questions about the buddy roster and email repeater which I'd like to answer here.

Q: Do I have to use the email repeater or be listed in the buddy roster?

A: Not at all. The club maintains them as a service to members, but they're optional.

Q: Who maintains the two lists?

Northern California Rainbow Divers

NCRD Board of Directors

Dive Planner • Paul Duhamel • 415/673-6146
• DivePlanner@RainbowDivers.org

Treasurer • Peg Stone • 510/547-8215
• Treasurer@RainbowDivers.org

Programs • Tom Martinczek • 415/626-9637
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• 415/863-5314 • DFL@RainbowDivers.org

Club WebMaster • Terry Gauchat
• 415/437-0838 • webslave@RainbowDivers.org

Club Policies

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. These meetings are open to any member in good standing. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please call any of the board members listed above for location. Membership dues are \$35/year, \$55/yr for domestic partners at the same address, and \$20/yr for newsletter only subscription (available to addresses more than 150 miles from San Francisco Bay Area). Advertising is available. Rates \$7/month to club members to have a business card size non-changing ad. It is \$10/month for non-club members to advertise. If you are interested in advertising please call 415-864-7775. Club policy regarding money paid for club sponsored dives: Unless otherwise noted, all monies are non-refundable.

NCRD does not warrant, recommend or guarantee the products or services contained in advertisements in this newsletter.

Club mail or inquiries:
NCRD • 584 Castro Street, #487
San Francisco • CA 94114

Web Site:
www.rainbowdivers.org

Reach Out...

Continues from Page 2

- A:** The membership chair maintains the buddy roster, and the email list is maintained by the webmaster.
- Q:** How do I add, remove or update my information?
- A:** The buddy roster is updated automatically from the membership forms when people join or renew. The latest forms also ask if you want to be on the email repeater. If you want to change your listing mid-year, please contact the membership chair to update the buddy list and the webmaster for the email repeater.
- Q:** Okay. What exactly IS an email repeater?
- A:** It's like a permanent virtual club meeting. Any email sent to the repeater gets forwarded to everyone on the distribution list. As a recipient, you can reply privately to the sender, or send a reply to the repeater for everyone to read.
- Q:** Who can use it?
- A:** Anyone. The emails are not screened. You can say whatever you like, but everyone will know who said it. The etiquette is about the same as for making an announcement at the start of a club meeting. (ie. Keep it brief, polite and diving related)
- Q:** What's the email address?
- A:** Broadcast messages go to BuddyEList@rainbowdivers.org. Maintenance messages go to Webslave@rainbowdivers.org.
- Q:** Okay, so what is the buddy roster?
- A:** That's a printed list of contact information for club members. It includes name, city, home phone number, certification level, email address, and an optional short comment listed by your name. (It does not include your mailing address)
- Q:** How often is it updated?
- A:** Monthly, right before the newsletter gets mailed.
- Q:** How often is it distributed?
- A:** A printed copy is sent out with the newsletter once a year, in the fall. The rest of the year, you can get a printed copy by emailing Membership@rainbowdivers.org, or mailing a self addressed envelope to the dive club.
- Q:** Is the buddy roster ever distributed via email?
- A:** It hasn't been in the past, but starting in March, we'll email the updated roster each month to every email address listed in it. If you're uncomfortable having your contact information distributed electronically, please send a message to the membership chair before March 1st, and I'll remove you from the roster.
- Q:** Any tips for using the buddy roster?
- A:** The roster is confidential, and should not be used for commercial purposes or distributed outside the club. If you'd like to use it for a special project, but aren't sure it's appropriate, contact the membership chair or any board member for guidance. Basically, you should treat it like an extension of your personal address book.
- Don't be shy about calling someone you don't know very well. Just remind them where you got their number, and ask if they have the time to talk.

Continues on Page 4

Lets Go Diving EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

8 (Tuesday) Club Meeting. At St Frances Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street, across from the Market Street Safeway. Socialize at 7:00; the meeting begins at 7:30.

21 (Monday - President's Day) Boat Dive: Cypress Sea at Pt. Lobos! NCRD Club charter of the Cypress Sea for 3 tank dives in the Pt. Lobos marine reserve. \$80. tariff includes breakfast bagels, a full lunch and the cost of Pt. Lobos reservations. See article on page 2 for details. Contact Paul Duhamel with questions at (415) 396-1941 or e-mail (RamsesRa@aol.com).

26 - March 5 Diving Warm in Roatan, Honduras at a cost of under \$1500 including the land, air and diving packages.

MARCH 2000

12 (Saturday) Pt. Lobos Shore Dives: See the newsletter article for details. Call or e-mail Paul Duhamel with questions at (415) 673-6146 (RamsesRa@aol.com).

25 (Saturday) Cypress Sea Boat Dives: First NCRD charter of 2000. Enjoy a 2-tank boat dive on Monterey Bay. Excellent opportunity to gain boat diving experience and/or get prepped for the April Vision trip! Call or e-mail Paul Duhamel with questions at (415) 673-6146 (RamsesRa@aol.com).

APRIL

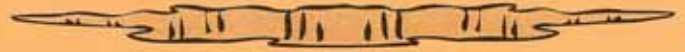
22-24 (Saturday - Monday: Easter Weekend) Northern Channel Islands Liveboard on the Vision. Deposits accepted at the January 11th club meeting. See newsletter article for details. Call or e-mail Gary Morgret (415) 863-5314 (gmorgret@planeteria.net) or Peg Stone (510) 547-8215 (pstone@csgadvisors.com) with questions.



Reach Out...

Continues from Page 3

- Q: What a great club! Anything else can I do to get involved?
- A: Organize a trip, write an article for the newsletter, host a mailing party. Contact any board member to see what needs to get done next. In particular, your friendly membership chair is looking for someone who can reliably go to club meetings and represent the club to new members. (The commute from my new job is



NCRD Pt. Lobos Dives 2000

Our first club organized shore dives at Pt. Lobos State Park for 2000 will take place Saturday, March 11th at Whalers Cove. Enjoy a day of relaxed diving (the park opens at 9:00 a.m.) and see the incredible marine life in this protected California reserve environment. A mere \$5.00 covers the cost of Pt. Lobos reservations and bottled water. Come join us for a day of easy entry/exit shore diving at Whalers Cove. The group is limited to 12 divers, so reserve your spot by sending a check for \$5.00 to Paul Duffamel (1850 Sacramento Street, No: 502, San Francisco, CA 94109).



Gay Dive Specialists

Join our gay/lesbian groups!

Bonair - Great Dive For Women Only, Oct. 29-Nov. 6, 1999
Belize - Great Adventure, Nov. 29-27, 1999 and Dec. 25, 1999-Jan. 1, 2000
Truk Lagoon - Truk Adventure II, Mar. 19-26, 2000
Palau - San Donato II, Mar. 29-Apr. 8, 2000
Venezuela - Amareo Dancer, April 1-8, 2000
Papua New Guinea - (Brisol), Apr. 29-28, 2000

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Interested in seeing Monterey's beautiful Dive Spots with PADI certified Divemasters who dive the area regularly?

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Please call (925) 485-4995 to make a reservation.



Northern California Rainbow Divers
 584 Castro Street, #478
 San Francisco, CA 94114



The Buddy Line