



The Newsletter of the Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD)

# Buddy Line

February, 2006

## Huge *Diving for Life* Success! Vote on March 16 Rainbow Divers to Donate \$18,100 to Local Charities

by Kelly Thiemann

Northern California Rainbow Divers sent 29 wild and crazy divers to the annual DFL jamboree in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, in September, 2005. *Diving for Life*, now in its 14th year, annually gathers LGBT divers from gay dive clubs around the world to dive, party, and raise funds for local health-related charities. The monies raised are allocated back to participating dive groups on a pro-rata basis. As the second largest contingent in Curacao, NCRD will receive a record share of the proceeds: \$18,100 out of the \$81,320 raised.

By the way, Rainbow Divers had an unforgettably fabulous time in Curacao, a small island 60 miles off the coast of Venezuela. One hundred and sixty-two LGBT divers (and a straight sister or two) took every room in the entire Habitat Curacao Resort for a week of diving and frolicking. DFL raised funds during the week with a raffle, plus silent and live auctions, the latter featuring a variety of wildly popular kitsch and queermobilia that drew exorbitant bids from the enthusiastic crowd. Locally donated dive items from Bamboo Reef and Pinnacles Dive Center were the big draw of the raffle, along with the ever-popular L.A. coroner beach towels.

Now comes the other fun part: choosing which organizations to give our "hard earned" money to! The list of past recipients includes PAWS, the Women's Cancer Resource Center, Billy DeFrank Center (youth AIDS education), and Breast Cancer Action. We ask *you*, as a member of the dive club, to consider nominating a group that you know and support.

Please consider sharing your favorite health-related local non-profit with your fellow members and possibly garnering a contribution of DFL funds to that worthy cause. Every deserving group presented has much to gain!

Nominated groups must be local 501(c)(3) organizations and



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At our March 16th club meeting, nominations will be accepted from NCRD members and short presentations made either by sponsoring members or by representatives of the nominated groups. After group representatives depart, the members present will decide whether to grant all the funds to one charity or to split it among several of the groups discussed at the meeting. Voting is always tough, as these are all worthy groups and small enough that any contribution would make a significant impact on their budgets and activities.

serve the health needs of lesbians and/or gay men. Somewhat smaller groups have attracted the most support in past years, as Rainbow Divers tend to invest these funds to make a maximum difference for our community.

If you don't nominate a group, please still come to vote! Let's celebrate giving something back to our community while having fun times with our fellow divers!

## 2005 Annual Meeting and Election Results

By Dennis Nix

Our annual meetings are always different. In past years they've been at the San Francisco Zoo and the skating rink in Embarcadero Center. This year, over twenty NCRD'rs met on December 8th at the Asian Art Museum to tour the exhibits, review the year's achievements, discuss plans for 2006 and elect the new Board.

After enjoying the museum's world-class collection and an Asian fusion din-

ner with wine, we got down to business. Ralph Wolf chaired the meeting, reviewing the accomplishments of 2005: a new logo; a new look for the newsletter; trips to St. Lucia, Monterey, the Channel Islands, Socorro Islands, and Diving for Life in Curacao; and the distribution of 2004 DFL funds of over \$10K to local health agencies. Clearly it was a busy, productive, and fun year for the Board and our club members.

Prospective Board members talked about their plans for 2006 and were elected. This new Board has a great mix of talents and energy: **Kelly Thiemann, Ralph Wolf, Gary Morgret, Dennis Nix, David Zippin, and Feney Matthews.** What makes this Board unique is

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## Editor's Log

by Karen Doby

In December, I found myself on an airplane, winging my way home from a wonderful 11-day dive trip in Fiji. Images floating non-stop in my mind, the marvels of the previous 11 days aboard the *N'aia* liveaboard kept returning to me from truly one of the most amazing dive adventures to be found anywhere. The onboard naturalists, marine experts in their own right, were in good company with the passengers, largely volunteer staff and marine biologists from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, making this one of the most intricately informed, interestingly recounted dive finds of a lifetime for six of us lucky LGBT divers. The excitement exuded during our time in Fijian waters continued to work its magic as I couldn't help but smile at the memories. Never had I felt more alive and thoroughly at home as I had on this trip.

My reveries were interrupted by the young man of 18 seated next to me, an exchange student from Australia, who interestingly had nary a thought of learning to dive. "What do you *do* down there?" he quizzed. My enthusiasm from the *N'aia* abounded as I began to regale him with tales of strange and exotic animals. He interrupted to blurt, "Really? That's what you *do*? Look at *animals*?" He was incredulous with unmistakable disbelief that anyone in their right mind would care to spend time and money looking at underwater marine life.

I was shocked — not that he didn't get it but at my own lack of clarity and words to express just exactly what the appeal of diving is to me. I've been thinking about this for a while now, and I'm curious. Why does anyone dive? A group of us were talking at dinner a while back and noticed amongst ourselves a tendency within diving couples for one person to be the more serious diver while their partner's dive activities tend to be led by the other. What makes a so-called hardcore diver tick? What drives us and calls us to ocean's edge when too much time has passed since last we submerged?

This is the gauntlet I lay at your feet this month. Reflect on it and if you can, tap into the feeling of it... Why *do* you dive?

This is especially relevant in this month's issue of *Buddy Line*, as we reflect on the success of this past September's *Diving For Life*. Begun from inception with the notion that diving can not only be fun but also raise money for charity, DFL has generated more funds this past year than in any other for Bay Area non-profits. The articles from **Peg Stone** and **Michelle Clay** amply demonstrate how much fun diving can be, while **Kelly Thiemann** and **Doug McGrath** get us thinking about which charities are most deserving of NCRD's share of the DFL 2005 proceeds.

We also highlight the results from this past December's election for a new Board as recorded by **Dennis Nix**. Some bright, energetic folks are now on the line to bring you more of what you'd like to see in a dive club. Think about the kinds of events you'd like to see, and drop these folks a line to help focus their efforts on what's important to you.

### NCRD Election...

(Continued from page 1)

that many of them have been on the Board in years past, while others are just getting involved with the club. Other members volunteered to fill non-Board posts: **Peg Stone** as Programs chair, **Kelly Thiemann** as DFL Liaison, **Doug McGrath** as Webmaster, and **Ralph Wolf** as local Dive Planner.

Great plans are already in place for 2006 and beyond. **Karen Doby** has organized a trip to Wakatobi; **Ralph Wolf** has planned monthly dives in Monterey, and **David Zippin** is in the final stages of organizing a 2007 liveaboard in Thailand and Burma. Classes are planned as are also some great meeting topics and social events. The 2006 Board is invigorated and excited to be working on making the club bigger and better. We're expecting great things from them, and I know we won't be disappointed.

### Northern California Rainbow Divers, Inc. a California non-profit mutual benefit corporation

#### OFFICERS

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*Trip Leader - Thailand*, David Zippin  
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*Trip Leader - Wakatobi*, Karen Doby  
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*Webmaster*, Doug McGrath  
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<http://www.rainbowdivers.org/>

#### CLUB POLICIES

Board meetings are held once a month and are open to any member in good standing. If interested in attending, please contact any of the Board members listed above for location.

Membership dues are \$35/year, \$55/year for domestic partners at the same address, and \$20/year for a newsletter-only subscription to addresses >150 miles from the SF Bay area.

Advertising is available for \$7/month to club members for a business card-size ad, or for \$10/month for non-club members. If you are interested in advertising, please contact the editor. NCRD does not warrant, recommend or guarantee the products or services contained in advertisements in this newsletter.

Unless otherwise noted, all monies paid for club-sponsored events are non-refundable.



## Diving Curacao at DFL 2005

by Peg Stone

Rainbow Divers had a terrific time in Curacao! One hundred and sixty or so queer-as-a-deer divers seized complete control of Captain Don's Habitat Curacao Resort for one splendid September week. Dykes lined the edge of the infinity pool, greeting returning lesbian divers with "How ya doin'?", "How *you* doin'?" as they trekked back from their boat dives. The first annual White Party brought out some spectacular drag, a plethora of angels, and the Pope Himself. The Aussies stole the show at the auction, contributing a wide variety of cheap, spectacular items that brought shockingly high bids from the well-lubricated crowd.

Some hardy souls soon realized that their partying brethren did not always rise in time to catch their early morning boats to the dive sites and began edging their way into the empty spots on the craft, snagging two boat trips

a day. Other more "social" divers rose late, pale and smiling, relegating their diving to the house reef much later in the day, skipping the rock-and-roll rides of the small dive craft.



Bright yellow and white markings make this snake eel easy to spot on the Curacao reef  
Photo by Ralph Wolf

You'll have to ask someone else about the late-night party scene. I *can* tell you that the diving sites offered all you could ask for: clear water, great invertebrate life, little parades of squid in marching formation, and colorful fish galore! Toward the end of the trip, a nurse shark took to napping on the Habitat's house reef, adding to its many attractions. And then there was the nude night dive...



Patience and a good eye are often rewarded with sightings of captivating macro life, such as this tiny baby filefish and Curacao seahorse  
Photos by Ralph Wolf



## Donating to Charity: Here's How DFL Fund Distribution Works!

By Doug McGrath

- NCRD members contact eligible 501(c)(3) health-related charities serving the LGBTT community.
- If a charity is interested, the nominating NCRD member should contact **Kelly Thiemann** by March 10 to get on the nomination agenda.
- At our March 16 general meeting, each charity will make a 10-minute presentation describing what they do and how they would use the funds.
- After the presentations, the charities are excused, and the NCRD members present at the meeting will choose one or more recipients and award amounts.
- The selected recipients will be notified and must provide DFL with appropriate documentation (such as tax exempt letter, etc.).
- DFL will send the funds directly to the recipients.
- At our April 20 meeting, NCRD will have a public presentation award.
- For more information, please contact **Kelly Thiemann**, our DFL Liaison, at [dfl@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:dfl@rainbowdivers.org).

### It's Official!

### DFL Announces 2006 Location

Anse Chastanet, a breathtakingly scenic resort on the island of St. Lucia in the British Virgin Islands, has been declared as the site for the Fifteenth Annual Diving For Life Jamboree on September 16-23, 2006. Check out this beautiful, romantic resort at [www.ansechastanet.com](http://www.ansechastanet.com)

DFL will offer online registration for the first time this year via a customized version of STARS (SCUBA Trip Advanced Reservation System © 2005), developed by NCRD member **Karen Casella** and piloted by NCRD's 2006 Wakatobi adventure.



## Another Trip to Paradise! Reflections on Diving Bonaire

by Michelle Clay

After a night and almost full day of traveling from the Great Northwest, including a 4-hour-plus layover in the Curacao airport (“do you think any of our luggage will show up today?”), with “any of it” being the operative phrase!), **Regan** and I were so happy to walk into the Bonaire restaurant where our six NCRD friends were patiently awaiting our arrival. With a round of drinks (thanks, **Brandé!**), our vacation finally began! We were anxious to hear how the trip had gone so far, and of course our friends – old and new – were ready to share, having preceded us on the island by a few days last September for a pre-DFL dive week in the underwater paradise of Bonaire.

**Sharon’s** choice of the Dutch-owned dive operation, Yellow Submarine, was superb! Upon learning that we had no luggage, they quickly got us geared up and out diving. I definitely would use them again – for one, they didn’t charge us for the two days we had to use their rental gear. They were the epitome of

good value and great service, both on the boat and for our shore diving. After the trip, they even sent an email requesting my address for mailing my C-Card that I had left behind in the pocket of the borrowed BC! This is definitely a company that goes the extra mile for their customers!

For me, diving with my NCRD friends is like dancing, and we quickly adapted to a diving rhythm that is just ...sublime. A mix of amazing photographers and not, those with “the eye” ... finding the ever elusive octopus, the teeny tiny juvenile trunkfish ... where is the head on that giant moray under the coral? The batfish is over here! No matter what you see or where you go, I just don’t think you can find a more consistently magical dive



An anemone shrimp ventures out onto the arms of its host

Photo by Karen Doby

destination than Bonaire! Our next week of diving at DFL in Curacao followed as a close second place, as the diving freedom of Bonaire is hard to beat for the rich color of its corals and undersea life.

One of our most amazing experiences was diving with



Remember that Sesame Street jingle? “One of these things is not like the others ...” We’re all ready to go at the Bonaire Town Pier. From left: Regan, Michelle, Sharon, David, Kelly, Gail, Brandé. Not pictured: Karen

Photo by Karen Doby



Caribbean squid! The only other time I have seen squid was two years ago, also in Bonaire, but this time we witnessed their mating dance in broad daylight, all the while changing colors and flashing and spreading their tentacles! Certainly that was not to be topped! Even better, our very own photographers extraordinaire not only got some awesome pictures but also some video! So, we can relive the experience over and over!

You may have heard it said that you haven't dove Bonaire until you've dove the Town Pier at night. I'm happy to report this as true, as that's where we had our one and only frogfish sighting of the week, it being black of course.



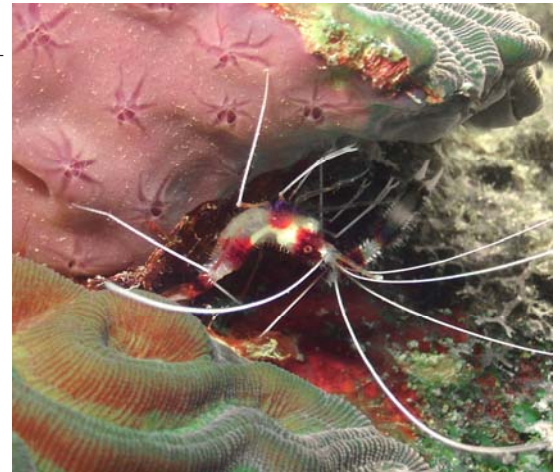
Changing colors and flashing tentacles were on display for the squid's mating dance  
Photo by Karen Doby



Queen parrotfish munching on the reef. Tasty!  
Photo by Sharon Ponder

so-token male, to the local grocery and "resort dining" – a much more affordable way of eating on the island than at most of the downtown restaurants.

At DFL we were once again lucky to be included in the pod of our NCRD pals, all of them now feeling like old friends, for another week of excellent diving, fun, laughing and enjoying this awesome community we share.



A barbershop shrimp hanging out on pink star coral  
Photo by Karen Doby

On our non-dive day, five of us braved the trek to the National Park — a long, dry journey, but the beauty of the northernmost coast was breathtaking as waves beat against the massive rock as we stood not all that far above them. The highlight of the trip was passing a bend in the road when suddenly our entire view was full of hundreds of pink flamingos! We could have spent hours there mesmerized by the sight of them all.

Our days in Bonaire were limited and over way before we were ready. Our luggage did finally arrive just before it was time to move on to Curacao for a wonderful week at DFL. But prior to leaving, we introduced **David**, our not-



Bonaire flamingos galore!

Photo by David Zippin

## Meet the 2006 NCRD Board and Volunteers Tales from the Deep

One thing often remarked about Rainbow Divers is how different we all are, not just as fellow humans but as divers. Our dive backgrounds, underwater interests, even what draws us and keeps us diving can be as varied as fish in the sea. Nowhere is this more apparent than in our new 2006 Board and volunteer staff.

December's election has infused the club with energetic new leadership — people committed to bringing us more of what we love about NCRD: safe yet exciting diving, affordable trips, interesting people, and local fun events.

If you have ideas or wish to volunteer, email addresses are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Let us hear from you!

— Karen Doby, Editor

### Where do you live?

**Peg:** Oakland. Best damn city in the world. Now if I could only dive the bay...

**David:** San José.

**Karen C:** My gf thinks I live in Pacific Grove with her, but I have a secret life and maintain an underwater residence in — oops, can't tell you!

**Doug:** San Francisco.

**Gary:** I've been living in San Francisco now for 28 years.

**Dennis:** San Francisco.

**Kelly:** Emeryville and Napa.

**Ralph:** Palo Alto.

**Karen D:** Pacific Grove, a few minutes west of Monterey. This usually surprises folks who don't realize that Monterey is on a north-facing beach.

**Chris:** Berkeley.

**Feney:** Berkeley.

**Maureen:** Moss Beach.

### Looking forward through 2006, what do you hope to achieve on behalf of the club?

**Peg:** Fun meetings and more cold-water divers to dive with! Actually, I want to have a Rainbow Divers float in the Gay Pride parade this year -- and I think we could have some real fun with this! So if you want to march as a mermaid/man, a fish, an otter, a nudibranch or some other fabulous creature, this is your big chance to strut your stuff!

**David:** I want to increase our membership and offer more fun programs and a wide range of affordable dive trips for our members. I'd also like to see more activities in the South Bay to increase membership there, including a renewed presence at San José Pride.

**Doug:** I'd really like to get the member's area of the club website and web-based membership tools in place and working well to add value for our members.

**Dennis:** I'd like to see more new members whom we can get excited about diving. I'd like to see some of the old NCRD'rs who aren't around as much get more involved and of course, lots more great trips.

**Ralph:** As dive planner, I'd like to see the club increase the number and variety of diving opportunities we offer. We have a wide range of abilities in the club, and I'd like to offer something for everyone. Of course, I'm counting on people to exercise good judgment in deciding which dives to sign up for. I'll plan the diving opportunities, but ultimately each of us has to plan and execute our own dives. I am happy to take requests for dives or classes and would love it if they included specific advice on dive sites or operators to use.

In general, I plan to cater to more experienced and "hard core" divers in the winter and spring, then reaching out to our newer divers, including brand new recruits from Pride, in the summer and fall. I'm also looking forward to working with our instructors to offer more classes in 2006.

Finally, I'd like to try doing more weekend events in Monterey to combine social and diving opportunities. Back-to-back events on Saturday and Sunday give people flexibility to sign up for either day of diving or to spend the night and make a weekend out of it.

**Chris:** I would like to make the membership process — from joining, to renewing, to simply checking on your status — as easy as possible for members using a simple web interface. I say this with a sublime ignorance of the technical challenges this may entail.

**Feney:** I hope to help out keeping NCRD as a fun dive club that offers great diving opportunities for queer folks.

**Kelly:** As the representative to DFL, I hope to ensure that next year's fundraising efforts will be as successful as this year's record-breaking event.

**Maureen:** Teaching more classes and increasing our band of fabulous divers.

### How long have you been diving?

**Peg:** I've been diving for about 9 years, almost all of it with the club or members from the club, and logged over 600 dives. Bottom time, I don't know, not enough. I'm hoping someone figures out how to give me gills.

**David:** I've been diving about three years with about 175 dives.

**Karen C:** I was certified in Monterey in 1995, which is the last time I dove cold water! I've done about 100 dives since then. I'm a bit of an off-and-on diver.



**Feney Matthews**  
Board Member  
NCRD President



**Gary Morgret**  
Board Member  
NCRD Secretary



**Ralph Wolf**  
Board Member  
NCRD Treasurer  
Dive Planner  
Classes & Trip Coordinator



**Gary:** I began diving with the club in 1992 when it was just beginning as the Sea Snakes. The YMCA in Plattsburgh, New York, certified me in 1969. My open water certification dives were on a wreck from the War of 1812 on the bottom of Lake Champlain. For years I dove Long Island, New York, mostly for lobster and on a few wrecks. Then for a time I lived in Eugene, Oregon, and diving fell by the wayside. Once I relocated to the city, the club re-inspired me to get back underwater, and I've been diving with NCRD or someone I met through the club ever since.

**Ralph:** I've been diving for 9 years. I'm looking forward to doing my 500th dive in the next few months. I've been in the club almost as long. I found NCRD when I had 20 dives logged and only an open water certificate. I've done all my additional training through PADI DM and SSI DiveCon certification with club instructors. I've also learned a lot about underwater photography from friends I've met through the club.

**Karen D:** I got certified in 1980. Since then, I've filled up a few different logbooks but never added up all the dives. Now I just make my own pages, many of them on napkins and Styrofoam cups! My current book has a little over 300 dives in it and about that much bottom time, 300 hours or so.

**Chris:** I have been diving for about three years and have logged about 150-200 dives. I've never met a dive spot I didn't like, from the Alaskan-British Columbian Inside Passage, California, the Caribbean and along the Pacific coast of the Americas.

**Feney:** I got certified in 1971 and have over 3,000 dives!

**Kelly:** I have been diving for 6 years and have about 175 dives.

**Maureen:** 18 years. 1,284 dives, most of them in Monterey.

### *What inspired you to start diving?*

**Peg:** The short story: I went to Maui, snorkeled my brains out and thought idly, wouldn't it be nice to be able to stay down a little longer to look at all those pretty fish? The longer story: I tried to commit suicide by drowning myself and after nine months of very hard emotional work, I thought I ought to reestablish a positive relationship with the water by learning to dive. It turned out to be a great idea since I could sort my friends by who thought I was (still) crazy and who "got it." There's an even longer story that weaves these two together. Ask me sometime, and I'll tell you.

**David:** It's something I've always wanted to do. As a biologist, I've always been curious about the natural world, and the underwater world seemed the most exotic to me. My sister finally convinced me to take the plunge.

**Karen C:** Back in 1995, my then-new gf took me to a SCUBA expo and encouraged me to try breathing underwater at the pool exhibit. Although the things to see in the pool were pretty gross, I was so awed by being able to breathe underwater, I just had to try diving. I was certified a month later and diving in Maui two weeks after that. When I saw my first manta ray, I was hooked.

**Doug:** I don't have a specific recollection of when I knew I wanted to learn, but I know it had to be from watching nature specials like Jacques Cousteau while growing up in the 70s.

**Dennis:** I accompanied a friend to Australia for a conference. I figured while I was there, I should learn to dive.

**Ralph:** I've always been curious about how the other 3/4ths of the earth live. But ultimately it was just bad vacation planning. I found myself on a poor Caribbean island with nothing to do. There was this shabby little dive shop at the edge of town; I wandered in...

**Chris:** A life-long affinity for all things aquatic pushed me to that point. I had enjoyed ocean swimming, snorkeling, and boogie-boarding for years. Then someone told me about learning to dive in the Bay Islands in Honduras. It suddenly occurred to me that I didn't have to be a French oceanographer or a Navy SEAL to dive; that regular Joe's like me (well...) could dive. I was hooked on the first dive (once I figured out how to equalize).

**Kelly:** Not being able to hold my breath long enough because I was fascinated with the giant clams at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia while snorkeling.

**Maureen:** Discovering a tide pool one day and learning marine biology as a hobby.

### *Where is your favorite place to dive?*

**Peg:** My favorite place to dive is Point Lobos because I can get there often, and it's terrifically beautiful and diverse. Really, that's like asking which cloud in heaven I prefer.

**David:** Nothing beats diving in a kelp forest on a sunny day, with sunbeams streaming through the kelp, lighting up the ocean floor.

**Dennis:** Cozumel-- easy to get to, easy warm diving. There are other things to do besides diving, nice people, plus I get to practice my broken Spanish.

**Ralph:** My favorite dive is always the one I'm about to do next. There is always something new there, and I just love the sense of discovery. Even when visiting "old friends" in Monterey, things are always changing.

**Karen D:** Coral Street beach in Pacific Grove. I don't get to dive it often because it isn't as protected as other beaches on Monterey Bay, but it's beautiful, dreamy, and only minutes from my house.



**Dennis Nix**  
Board Member-At-Large



**Kelly Thiemann**  
Board Member-At-Large  
Diving For Life Liaison



**David Zippin**  
Board Member-At-Large  
Trip Leader, Thailand

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## Meet the Staff...

*(Continued from page 7)*

**Chris:** Forced to name one favorite place to dive, I have to say Point Lobos. It is so accessible, so pristine, and such a beautiful setting of rock, reef, kelp, light, shadow, surge. Its natural beauty is seamless from surface to depth. And the critters grow fat and sassy because they are protected and they know it.

**Maureen:** The Breakwater Pier in Monterey. After hundreds of dives there, I still see something new or different every dive. It's safe, convenient, and I see lots of people I know there!

### **What motivated you to join NCRD?**

**Peg:** I've been with the club since 1996; I joined to find people to dive with, and I've stayed because the people in the club are wonderful, interesting, caring people.

**Doug:** I joined NCRD in the spring of 1998 after discovering the club at Pride in SF. I hadn't yet gotten certified, but I knew I wanted to be a member.

**Ralph:** I joined NCRD because I didn't feel like I had much in common with the typical spear-gun-toting, beer-can-crushing straight-guy divers. I'm not out to conquer the ocean; I just want to visit for a while. I've stayed in the club because it's such a neat mix of people. Everyone I've met through NCRD has been some combination of smart, funny, kind, adventurous and yet safe and responsible too. Also, the club crosses the age and gender barriers of our social cliques. Through the club, I meet really great people whom I'd probably never know otherwise.

**Karen D:** I joined the club in 1995, after I moved from L.A.

to Silicon Valley and my membership from Barnacle Busters to NCRD. I didn't start diving with the club, though, until January, 2004, when **Mike Ford** enticed me with an NCRD trip to Saba. Not only was the diving better than expected, the people were so incredibly nice. I've been diving with the club ever since. I'll be leading a group to Wakatobi in July for simply phenomenal diving!

**Chris:** I joined NCRD a couple of years ago, really, as soon as I found out about it. It had never occurred to me to join a dive club before finding NCRD.

**Feney:** I joined the club in 1992 because it's a wonderful thing to have a gay dive club where we can dive with great people.

### **What do you like most about diving with NCRD?**

**Peg:** I like how safety conscious and supportive the members are and how welcoming the group is to new members.

**Gary:** Through the club I did continuing education: AOW, rescue and divemaster certifications. I served on the board previously for three years, two doing the newsletter and one as secretary. I'd love to see the club grow and offer a place to find great deals on dive trips, dive buddies, continuing education and skills.

**Dennis:** The camaraderie and caring of fellow members. My tank came loose once and before I knew it, I was surrounded by NCRD'rs helping to put it back on.

### **Why do you dive? What do you do underwater anyway -- what's the appeal?**

**Peg:** I dive because underwater feels like home to me. I go into a trance, a sort of focused trance state, and the weightlessness, the otherness, the silence wrap around me like paradise. Underwater, I consider the awesome intricacy of the ecosystem, look for things I haven't seen before or have rarely seen, keep

track of my buddy, despair at the degradation of the marine environment, keep track of my gauges, and open myself up to oneness with the universe.

**David:** I love to dive because it is so peaceful and relaxing. To me, it feels like doing yoga underwater. And there're so many cool things to see!

**Karen C:** I love looking at the critters, big and small. Where else can you see such a diversity of wildlife? And then there's the feeling of weightlessness. Above water, my knees hurt a lot, and carrying extra weight around for years hasn't helped. Underwater, I can float around with no pain! Last, I'm married to a dive pig and love spending time with her, so I go along for the dives.

**Gary:** For me diving is a form of meditation, the sound of my breath, and being present to what unfolds in front of me. The weightlessness in three dimensions and the beauty of the underwater world are intoxicating. While diving, I never find my mind wandering; it is always very focused and clear. After all these years, I'm as hooked as ever.

**Dennis:** I love the tranquility of no cell phones, no talking, just floating along in beautiful surroundings.

**Ralph:** I love to see and learn new things. At first, the appeal was just learning to dive well, honing basic skills. Once I had that down, I started taking pictures underwater. This adds a new skill challenge for me and makes each dive something of a scavenger hunt. I'm always looking for new subjects or a new way to capture the mood of a dive. Most recently, I've become more aware of animal behaviors and want to learn more about marine biology and ocean ecology.

**Feney:** I love floating away underwater and using my camera to capture some of the beautiful underwater images.



**Chris Whitney**  
Membership Chair



**Karen Doby**  
Newsletter Editor (Interim)  
Trip Leader, Wakatobi



**Peg Stone**  
Programs Chair



**What's your favorite underwater creature to dive with? i.e. Which animal or plant, when you see it, really makes your day?**

**Peg:** I'm in love with a Hawaiian monk seal that lives off Nihau. He came a courtin' and I fell to his charms. (Don't tell **Claudia!**) So far, this is my only heterosexual experience. You could say I'm a one-seal kind of gal.

**Doug:** Octopus... and I struggle between this and the giant mantas. I guess it's that giant mantas are the specialty item, but octopus can show up any time, and I think they're among the most fascinating creatures anywhere, above or below water.

**Dennis:** The homosexual — especially if it's one of the friendly ones.

**Ralph:** My main dive buddy and life partner Larry. He makes me laugh and challenges me to see things in new ways. That continues underwater, and I just can't get enough of it. Sharks and rays are pretty cool too, but then so are a lot of invertebrates. Kelp is amazing when the sun filters through it just right. Mammals are always a treat when they're being playful. How to choose from all that?

**Karen D:** I get really excited when I find something I've never noticed before, like a teeny tiny little shrimp, blenny or goby that I'm convinced is rare, but once I see it, I find it everywhere — duh! I especially like it when animals choose to interact with me in some way, like crawling onto my hand or even cleaning it, as on several occasions. You never know where my hand has been!

**Maureen:** I love nudibranchs. Herissenda crassicornis is my very favorite little critter; it's a good dive every time I see one.

**What was your most memorable underwater animal encounter?**

**Peg:** Well, besides my monk seal, I've had some great encounters with manta rays in the

Galapagos and in Fiji. Both times, I looked up because I knew *something* was coming. They have incredible presence.

**David:** Riding in the slipstream on top of a giant manta at the Socorro Islands in April on the NCRD trip! It was one of the most exhilarating 30 seconds of my life.

**Karen C:** During my OW certification class at Lover's Point, a harbor seal swam right up to me and had a good look. I was so shocked, I almost lost my reg. My most memorable moment, though, was two weeks later on one of my first post-certification dives. We were in Maui diving the Makena coast with all the turtles when an enormous manta ray cruised through the area. It was an awesome sight.

**Karen D:** When I was first certified, my class took a day boat to Santa Barbara Island. They told us we'd see seals in the rookery, mothers protecting the pups. I was feeling pretty good in the water when suddenly a little whippersnapper started swimming circles around me and tugging on my fins. I started feeling a bit unnerved and awkward; then suddenly a bigger seal appeared out of nowhere, baring its teeth only inches in front of my mask. I started screaming through my regulator. The animals left, and I must have lost half my tank of air in about 30 seconds! Silly, huh?

**Chris:** On a trip to Mexico's Socorro Islands that was full of mesmerizing encounters with giant manta rays, one dive stands out. We were anchored off of San Benedicto Island one morning in waters protected by a huge hill of gray volcanic ash. Wind-blown ash dissolved in the water gives it a strange, milky-luminescence. Alone in this watery desert, I didn't expect to see any mantas. Still, I was enjoying the odd light, the rock formations, what critters I could see. I was hovering between two large rock formations when I had that sensation of being watched. I slowly pivoted, half-expecting to see another diver. Instead I found myself eye-to-eye with a per-

fectly still manta. I'm not sure how long it took me to gather my wits, but I slowly backed out of the rock canyon and to the side to let it pass. Its left eye still fixed upon me, the manta gently glided in between the rocks and stopped at the spot I had just vacated. Only then did I realize I'd been hanging out in the local cleaning station. My graceful, gentle, dive buddy had been patiently waiting for me to finish before taking its turn.

**Feney:** I would have to say it was the time I was wrapped up by a giant octopus in Puget Sound. The story was written up in *Omni* magazine and in a book called *Femme D'Adventure*, so I guess I'm a Femme D'Adventure.

**Kelly:** The most memorable was my first encounter with an octopus while diving in Kona, Hawaii. It was a most interesting shade of red.

**What was your most embarrassing dive-related moment?**

**Peg:** Well, it's hard to name just one. There's the time in British Columbia that I forgot to attach my drysuit inflator hose. There's the time my buddy almost entered the water without her mask on after my "thorough" buddy check. There's the time I goofed doing a Divemaster demo for an open water class and put my snorkel into my mouth underwater instead of my regulator. There was the time I mistook a grouper for a shark in Cozumel -- I took a lot of ribbing for that! Then there are all those trips when I forgot to bring things: my regulator, my wetsuit, my computer, my medications...

**Doug:** I think it was on the Socorro trip when I jumped in, tried desperately to sink and then realized I didn't have any weights on.



**Karen Casella**  
Software Development



**Doug McGrath**  
Webmaster



**Maureen McEvoy**  
Dive Instructor

(Continued on page 11)

## NCRD's Wakatobi Trip Registration to Close on February 28

By Karen Doby

If you've been thinking about diving with the Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD) at Wakatobi in July, 2006, but haven't gotten around to signing up, time is running out. NCRD trip registration will close on February 28.

Our first block of rooms sold out quickly, so we've added a second block and those have been filling fast, too! As of January 23, only one-and-a-half Premium Beach bungalows remain open, enough space for three more lucky divers. This means also that the resort will be filled with Rainbow Divers and our friends from Undersea Expeditions. This is truly amazing for a place as far afield as Indonesia. What a wonderful way to enjoy exotic, warm-water diving at a phenomenal world-class resort!

If a week of fine diving just isn't enough, divers may elect to extend the fun before and/or after NCRD's Wakatobi week. On the front end is an optional inland tour to Ubud, the cultural heart of Bali. Following, divers may elect to remain at the resort for an additional week, or to explore the extended Wakatobi region and Banda Sea aboard the *Pelagian* liveaboard, or to journey to the mythical Komodo Islands aboard Kararu's newest liveaboard, *Voyager*. Check out these spectacular trip extensions on the NCRD website.

Any rooms not filled by Feb. 28 will be turned back in for sale directly by the resort at undiscounted prices. If you'd like to take advantage of NCRD's discount on 2005 rates, you need to act fast by signing up online: [www.rainbowdivers.org/trips\\_wakatobi.php](http://www.rainbowdivers.org/trips_wakatobi.php)

Northern California Rainbow Divers

## Wakatobi Dive Resort

July 28 – August 4, 2006

7-day Land Package Only

Divers US\$1,940--\$2,280

*NCRD members receive a 5% discount off these 2005 prices*

**TRIP REGISTRATION CLOSING FEBRUARY 28**

The Northern California Rainbow Divers present the ultimate destination in dive travel adventure, the incredible Wakatobi Dive Resort. The warm waters of this Indonesian paradise are known for pristine reefs and exotic biological diversity, home to countless numbers of beautiful, rare and unusual marine animals, many found only in Indo-Pacific waters, including the amazingly tiny pygmy seahorse, cuttlefish, crocodilefish, leaf fish, and the beautiful blue-ringed octopus! With visibility up to 240' and water and air temperatures of 77-80°F, this trip is certain to hail amongst your most memorable diving experiences.



Blue-Ringed Octopus



Clownfish



Mandarinfish

Our adventure begins when a private jet (included in trip price) whisks us from the magical land of Bali to the Tukang Besi archipelago of southern Sulawesi. Here, your bungalow sits only a few steps from the beach and the unbelievably diverse house reef. You'll enjoy three boat dives a day, up to 7 beach dives per day (virtually unlimited), dive guide services, three delicious meals prepared fresh daily by the resort's Balinese-trained chefs, as well as the unforgettable company of fun-loving, safety-minded lesbian and gay divers. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to savor local culture with a visit to a nearby traditional village.

Only a few spaces are left, with 21 NCRD'rs signed up for this amazing week. Our friends from Undersea Expeditions will be joining us too! This is a rare opportunity to get a nearly all-gay week at an incredible, exotic and beautiful dive resort. Checks and credit cards are accepted; an installment payment plan is available.



**Reservations:** [http://www.rainbowdivers.org/trips\\_wakatobi.php](http://www.rainbowdivers.org/trips_wakatobi.php)

*All Photos © Wakatobi Resort. Used with permission.*



## Meet the Staff...

(Continued from page 9)

**Ralph:** Okay, I'll confess. I've made the same mistake about a dozen times. I get used to having a snorkel in my mouth and then forget to switch to my regulator at the start of the dive! I always relax and fully exhale to sink those first 5 or 10 feet so it's a *big* surprise when I go to inhale for the first time. If anything, that's the one skill that gets worse the more I dive.

### What was your most exciting dive-related moment?

**Peg:** Oh, there are a lot! Maybe the dive in Indonesia at GPS Point: a large plateau with 35 feet as the highest point, swept by current and filled with reef life, including many sharks circling about. Just as the DM signaled us to rise up, we saw a sea krait, which looks like a striped snake, a magnificent animal, hunting through the coral. The DM floated away, but the entire group stayed until the very limits of non-deco diving to watch our krait probe the coral structure for a meal. We then let the current sweep us up to a drifting safety stop. We climbed onto the skiff raving about the krait's beauty. As one king-sized diver hauled himself over the gunnel, the skiff lurched and the Indonesian boatman got tipped overboard. He nearly bounced on the water in his hurry to spring back into the boat, so afraid was he of that krait! Turns out that the difference between a krait and a sea snake isn't deadliness — the bite of either is invariably fatal — but that the krait can get out of the water and is known to slither up onto boats.

**Ralph:** Unfortunately I was involved in a rescue shortly after finishing my DM training. Excitement isn't always a good thing. These days, if a dive doesn't look like it's going to be both fun and safe, I have no hesitation about sitting it out and waiting for a better diving opportunity.

**Karen D:** A few months ago at Point Lobos, I found a spot by the reef where I could very quietly hang, very still. After a few moments, one by one, fish began making their way toward me, settling on the reef every few inches but always moving in my direction. After a few minutes, I was surrounded by fish of various types, cabezon, ling cod, their big eyes fixed upon me. Being closed in by fish like that was very cool yet creepy at the same time. It felt like the marine version of *The Birds*.

**Kelly:** The most exciting was landing virtually on top of a whale shark while in Utila,

Honduras. OK, I was snorkeling but only because I had to.

### What is your favorite dive movie or book? What do you like about it?

**Peg:** Let's see, I read a lot of dive-related books. *The Last Dive* was good (and is a good prequel or sequel to *Shadow Divers*). *Devil's Teeth* is a great read about the Farallons, the sharks and shark researchers there. I dove the Farallons once and would love to get back there. *The Bends* is a fascinating book about the history of decompression illness.

As to movies, I'm kind of into submarine movies from the 40s and 50s. *Torpedo Run* is a classic. *The Abyss* is pretty cool. And lots of James Bond movies have really hilarious underwater scenes.

**Ralph:** *Shadow Divers*. It's a book about the discovery of a German U-boat in deep water off the Atlantic coast. Funny thing is, the U.S. Navy was certain that all U-boats were accounted for and that none were lost within 200 miles of there. It's a great story about a couple of extraordinary Joe's ignoring the "experts" and figuring things out for themselves. Also, the diving they did was completely nuts, really scary stupid stuff that I would never attempt, but it's great fun to read about.

### Is there life after diving? What do you like to do when you aren't diving?

**Peg:** There is no life after diving. I'm not sure I even understand the question. When I'm not diving, I'm earning money to go diving some more and trying to work the nitrogen out of my system. Well, I do play Scrabble some (extra points for diving-related words!). I do read a *few* books not related to diving. Hey, I could give up diving any time, really I could. But, I mean, why would I?

**Karen C:** Well, since I'm a bit of an off-and-on diver, I can claim a life outside of diving. I enjoy playing golf when I'm able, reading books of all sorts, developing software watching movies, traveling (not all vacations are about diving), gaming (strangely, traditional card and board games, *not* computer or video games), and gambling. When we go to Las Vegas, I can't be found outside the casino.

**Doug:** In my day job, I'm a software engineer, but I'm also a professional musician. I play piano and do a lot of accompanying; right now, I'm the accompanist for Colla Voce, a small gay men's chorus in San Francisco, and Sunnyvale Singers, a mixed (straight) ensemble. I'm also interested in

astronomy in particular and science in general.

**Ralph:** In 2004, Larry and I decided to stop working and live life as well and as inexpensively as we could for the next few years. We love to travel and enjoy the outdoors. We climbed Mt. Whitney last summer, and I'm looking forward to having another go at Mt. Shasta this year, probably Bolam Glacier, on the north side. I've ridden big sport-touring motorcycles for years, but we're starting to get into riding dual-sport bikes now. With the help of a GPS and some mapping software, we're making sense of some of the thousands of miles of barely paved back roads in California and nearby states. For the next few months we'll be doing a whole lot of snowboarding whenever we're not down in Monterey. Between outdoor adventures, I follow politics and the news pretty closely.

**Kelly:** There is life between dives — I like to travel. I have just returned from a trip to Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Bangkok. I have a new Rainbow Diver's shirt from Hao An, Vietnam. All of the pedicab drivers were wearing them!

**Maureen:** I'm a volunteer diver at the Monterey Bay Aquarium twice a month. Sometimes I play golf (when pressed), and I've just recently reacquainted myself with skiing. My real job is at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in Marketing and Membership.

### Is there anything else you'd like to say to the club's members?

**Peg:** Why aren't you underwater instead of reading this? Oh, and come to a meeting sometime! We're having fun!

## Sneak Preview! NCRD Dive Trip in 2007 to Thailand & Myanmar

By David Zippin

The Northern California Rainbow Divers will be sponsoring an exciting liveaboard dive trip to Thailand and Myanmar March 23 to April 2, 2007.

Sixteen lucky Rainbow Divers will spend nine days and ten nights on the luxurious, highly-rated *Ocean Rover* in the exotic Andaman Sea. Dive the

world-class Similan Islands and the remote, little-visited Mergui Archipelago in Myanmar, aka Burma. Diving highlights include a huge diversity of marine life, from enormous Malabar grouper to the smallest creatures such as tiger-tail seahorses, ghost pipefish, soft corals, as well as chances to see sharks, giant mantas, large schools of tuna, perhaps even whale sharks.

The price of the trip has not yet been set but will likely be in the range

of \$2,600 to \$2,800 without airfare. There will also be opportunities for pre- and post-trip extensions. Look for more details to come soon on the Rainbow Divers website, via email, and in the next issue of *Buddy Line*.

If you may be interested, please contact **David Zippin**, the trip organizer, at [thailand@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:thailand@rainbowdivers.org). And mark your calendars now for this once-in-a-lifetime trip!

## NCRD Announces Monthly Dive Photo Contest

By Karen Doby

Do you find your photography skills getting better and better? Now you can share your still images with fellow club members! NCRD invites you to submit your dive-related digital photos to the Northern California Rainbow Divers' new monthly Dive Photo Contest.



Winners will be announced in *Buddy Line* and receive a \$10 credit toward any NCRD-sponsored event of your choice. All images submitted for consideration may be featured at club events, on the NCRD website and in the *Buddy Line* newsletter and annual club calendar.

Not to worry, we aren't expecting professional-quality results. We just want to see your pictures! Show us what you've been seeing on your dive adventures. So dive wet, dive dry, dive boat, dive beach, have fun, and don't forget your camera!

- Both above-water and below-water shots are invited. Above-water submissions must have been taken at NCRD events. Underwater images may be taken at any dive site or dive-related event.
- Photos must be original images taken by the submitting NCRD member, whose membership status is in good standing. Each member may submit as many as three images for any given month's contest.
- All photos must be high-resolution digital still images, submitted via email to [editor@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:editor@rainbowdivers.org). Cropped and digitally enhanced images are acceptable.
- Photos must have been taken in the month for which they are submitted. e.g. Photos submitted for the February, 2006, contest must have been taken in February, 2006.
- Photos must be submitted to and received by the Newsletter Editor by the 5th of the month following the month for which submitted. e.g. Photos taken in and submitted for February's contest must be received on or before March 5.
- Photos should be accompanied by a short statement of what kind of camera was used and any special lenses or settings; when and where the image was taken; identification of the subject; plus a brief description of what the subject was doing when the photo was taken.
- Photo submissions will be juried anonymously by designated NCRD Officers and Volunteer Staff. All decisions are final.



## Rainbow Divers to Join Lambda Divers in Roatan, April 29—May 6, 2006

By *Ralph Wolf*

Looking for a quick and easy warm-water diving fix? How about the island of Roatan, Honduras? NCRD is joining forces with our sister LGBT club, Lambda Divers from Washington, DC, to take over the Inn of Last Resort from April 29 to May 6, 2006.

The cost is just \$750 per diver, double occupancy, an 18% savings over the internet rate, and includes 7 nights in spacious air-conditioned rooms, 3 boat dives per day, 3 meals a day, unlimited shore diving and all that nasty stuff like taxes and airport transfers. The only thing the price doesn't include is airfare, bar tab and tips.

The Inn of Last Resort is a lovely, secluded resort nestled beneath dense shade trees. They have a wonderful lagoon for shore dives, hammocks between the trees, and a dive shop and boat dock just behind the main dining room. It's been almost six years since NCRD was there, and I still have fond memories of the place.

For more information, check out these internet URLs:

[www.innoflastresort.com](http://www.innoflastresort.com)

[www.lambdadivers.org](http://www.lambdadivers.org)

[www.rainbowdivers.org/trips\\_roatan.php](http://www.rainbowdivers.org/trips_roatan.php)

Don't wait too long to decide. This NCRD trip is limited to only 12 divers, and it's sure to sell out fast. A \$100 deposit is required at sign-up, with the balance due by March 15, 2006.



For more information, email the trip organizers, **Ralph Wolf** and **Larry Chow**, at [roatan@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:roatan@rainbowdivers.org)

## Dear Dive Nerd



Ever had a dive-related question but didn't know whom to ask? One of our long-time, seasoned divers and divemasters extraordinaire is now available to help! No question is too silly or difficult for our dive nerd. Give it a try! All questions may be sent to [DiveNerd@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:DiveNerd@rainbowdivers.org)

***My instructor told me about all the different classes I could take now that I'm certified. But, I'd rather spend my time diving, not sitting in class! How much training do I really need?***

I think the important thing is to know what you don't know and to keep learning. It keeps the diving interesting and probably makes people safer divers, too.

Continuing to take classes is one way to keep learning, but you can learn from talking to other divers, reading, or just paying atten-

tion and trying new things when you dive. Looking back on my own dive training, I list in the table below the PADI courses I've taken and what I think I've gotten out of them.

How much training you need is up to you. As long as you don't try to dive beyond your abilities, you should be relatively safe at any level of training.

If you want to do five dives a day on liveaboards, you'll definitely want a dive computer, and you may want to get a Nitrox certification too. If you want to plan and lead your own shore dives, you probably want to get an advanced or even a rescue certification since there will not be a DM to look after you.

Most warm-water boat dives will have a DM or Instructor in the water leading the dives, so you really don't need more than an OW certification to dive there. In local California cold-water diving, it's impractical for

a DM to lead a group of 6-8 divers because the visibility is often limited. On local boats, you and your buddy will be expected to plan and lead your own dives once the dive briefing has been given. Here, a navigation specialty can mean the difference between finding the anchor line again or coming up 100 yards from the boat at the end of the dive.

If it helps any, most of the classes I've listed are very hands on, with only a bare minimum of classroom work. The only real exceptions are the Open Water class and the Divemaster class. Those two do have a fair amount of classroom work to them.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Open Water (OW)</b>           | Basic skills: how to use and care for the gear and stay alive under water  |
| <b>Navigation</b>                | How to know where I am underwater and how to find the boat again   |
| <b>Advanced Open Water (AOW)</b> | Refining basic skills and learning about issues of deeper diving   |
| <b>Rescue Diver</b>              | In theory, how to help other divers in trouble. In practice, how to avoid trouble for myself and how to self-rescue if I get into trouble  |
| <b>Nitrox</b>                    | How to safely stay down longer without getting bent (very useful for liveaboards when dive sites are in the 60'-100' range)  |
| <b>DAN-O2</b>                    | How to provide first aid for diving injuries   |
| <b>Divemaster (DM)</b>           | How to look after and assist other divers; how to assist an instructor and how to work together as a team underwater. How to anticipate problems and intervene early to keep small problems from becoming large ones |

## General Meetings

**February 23**

**March 16**

**April 20**

### Location

LGBT Center, SF  
1800 Market Street  
@ Octavia  
www.sfgaycenter.org

### Getting There

The Muni Metro lines J, K, L, M, N, the F streetcar, or Muni Bus lines 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 21, 26, 47, 49, 66 and 71 all run within 5 blocks of the Center; many run within 1 block. Also, take BART to SF Civic Center, then transfer to Muni Metro or F lines.

## Calendar

Please see details at  
<http://www.rainbowdivers.org/calendar.php>

| San Francisco Bay  | Monterey Bay  | Far Away   |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Feb. 23</b> <i>General Meeting, 7pm</i><br/>LGBT Center, SF.<br/><i>David Behrens presents "Nudibranch Paradise"</i></p> <p><b>Mar. 16</b> <i>General Meeting, 7pm</i><br/>LGBT Center, SF.<br/><i>DFL Award Nominations</i><br/>plus<br/><i>Lisa Malachowsky "Wakatobi Diving"</i></p> <p><b>Apr. (TBA)</b> <i>Class/Pool Sessions</i><br/>Wallins Dive Center<br/>San Carlos, CA.<br/><i>Stress and Rescue Diver</i></p> <p><b>Apr. 20</b> <i>General Meeting, 7pm</i><br/>LGBT Center, SF.<br/><i>DFL Award Presentations</i><br/>plus <i>TBA</i></p> <p><b>Jun. 10-11</b> <i>San José Pride</i></p> <p><b>Jun. 24-25</b> <i>San Francisco Pride</i></p> <p><b>Jul. 9</b> <i>NCRD BBQ &amp; Swap Meet</i></p> | <p><b>Feb. 11,</b> <i>Aquarium Tour, 3pm</i><br/>Monterey Bay Aquarium</p> <p><b>Feb. 11,</b> <i>Moonlight Night Dive, 6pm</i><br/>Breakwater Pier, Monterey</p> <p><b>Feb. 12,</b> <i>Shore Dive, 9am</i><br/><i>U/W Photo &amp; Video Clinic</i><br/>Pt. Lobos State Reserve</p> <p><b>Mar. 11,</b> <i>Shore Dive</i><br/>Lover's Point #3<br/>Pacific Grove, CA.</p> <p><b>Mar. 11,</b> <i>Hyperbaric Chamber Tour</i><br/><i>with Head RN Meg Donat</i><br/>Pacific Grove Chamber</p> <p><b>Mar. 12,</b> <i>Chartered Boat Dive</i><br/>on the 6-person <i>Sanctuary</i></p> <p><b>Apr. 1-2,</b> <i>No joke; we're diving!</i><br/>Details TBD</p> <p><b>Apr. 22, 23</b> <i>Class/Ocean Sessions</i><br/>Stress and Rescue Diver</p> <p><b>Jul. 15,</b> <i>MBARI Open House</i></p> | <p><b>April 29 –May 6, 2006</b><br/><i>Inn of Last Resort</i><br/>Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras</p> <p><b>May 6-13, 2006</b><br/><i>Diving w/ GLUG: Whale Sharks</i><br/>Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras</p> <p><b>July 28 to Aug. 4, 2006</b><br/><i>Wakatobi Dive Resort</i><br/>Sulawesi, Indonesia</p> <p><b>September 16-23, 2006</b><br/><i>DFL @ Anse Chastanet</i><br/>St. Lucia, BVI, Caribbean</p> <p><b>November 10-12, 2006</b><br/><i>'Vision' Liveaboard</i><br/>Northern Channel Islands, CA.<br/>includes Wreck Diving</p> <p><b>March 23 to April 2, 2007</b><br/><i>'Ocean Rover' Liveaboard</i><br/>Thailand and Myanmar</p> |



Northern California Rainbow Divers

584 Castro Street, #478

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