



The Newsletter of the Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD)

# Buddy Line

May, 2013

## DFL Raises \$25,088 for Local Charities *by Kelly Thiemann*

The Diving For Life (DFL) Foundation, a 501(c)(3) volunteer-run organization, has completed its 21st annual scuba jamboree and fund-raising event. This exciting trip in 2012 drew together a sold-out capacity crowd of 130 participants to the beautiful island of Bali, Indonesia. Thanks to the generosity of all participants, the LGBT dive club members and our sponsors, we are pleased to announce this year's distribution of \$92,500 in charitable funds going to worthy LGBT health-related and social services organizations. Through hard work, ongoing support and selfless generosity over the past 21 years, DFL will proudly reach the outstanding cumulative achievement of giving over \$1M dollars!

Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD) has played an integral part of this by distributing over 18% (\$187,000) of the \$1 million in charitable funds over the years. This year, NCRD designated \$25,088 in DFL proceeds to be distributed to LGBT health-related charities in our own local community.

In April, 2013, NCRD selected four San Francisco Bay Area organizations to receive charitable contributions from DFL:

### • Downtown Youth Clinic: \$7,911

The Downtown Youth Clinic (DYC) is one of two youth-specific HIV clinics in California, providing medical care for thousands of HIV-positive youth since its inception in 1997, the vast majority of whom are LBGQ-identified and lower income urban youth. DYC is launching a new program to extend services to HIV-negative gay and transgender youth. \$7,911 of DFL funds will be used to publicize and support the expansion of DYC's services.

### • The Trevor Project: \$8,895

The Trevor Project (Trevor) is the leading national organization for crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Trevor works to save young

lives by providing support directly through its free, confidential call-in crisis line. Trevor also hosts in-school workshops and offers online and digital resources for LGBTQ youth. DFL donated \$8,895 to support the operations of The Trevor Project's San Francisco Center and to help transition The Harvey Milk Call Center into the Harvey Milk Center for Digital Crisis Intervention to deliver instant messaging and crisis texting services to LGBTQ youth.

### • HIV/AIDS Local Outreach: \$3,000

HALO (HIV/AIDS Local Outreach) was launched in 2010 to address gaps in funding and help meet the urgent needs of 102 individuals and their families living with HIV/AIDS in Nevada County. HALO funds are utilized when other means are unavailable and have provided financial support for dental care, eye care, hearing aids, medication and transportation to medical appointments. In 2010, NCRD member Brad Carter and his partner, Fred Hodgson, co-founded Art for Life, a Spring Garden Party and Art Auction, to raise funds for HALO. Art for Life 2013 received a \$3,000 donation from Diving for Life to benefit HALO.

### • Rainbow Community Center: \$5,282

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa (RCC) provides services for LGBT youth by creating a community of supportive peers through workshops, field trips to LGBT-friendly workplaces and talent shows, and helps staff create workshop curricula for their own families. The RCC teaches skills to help LGBT youth navigate the most difficult of life's transitions. DFL's \$5,282 donation will go toward recruiting and training at least six high school-aged Youth Leaders to become peer educators who deliver anti-bullying and LGBTQ youth empowerment programming on local school campuses.

DFL holds its fund-raising event in various dive destinations around the world. In 2013, DFL will take place in Curacao from September 21-28. Hope to see you there! ☺

## Local Dive Planning

*by Christophe Beraud*

We are lucky to live close to one of the most amazing underwater environments in the world, and the temperate (aka cold) water divers in the club take every opportunity to dive in Monterey/Carmel as often as we can. Up until recently, NCRD used to organize monthly dives in our local waters, but this approach was very taxing on the volunteers as one person ended up organizing all dives for the year. Also, it was sometimes difficult to fill the spots that we had booked with the dive boat charters or Point Lobos, and the club ended up taking a financial loss on these dives.

In 2013, we have started experimenting with a new approach to local dive planning. A club volunteer decides on a day(s) and location(s) for the dives (either shore or boat dives), which are announced to club members through our website and Facebook page as usual. However, it is now

the responsibility of each diver who wishes to come diving to book his or her spot directly with the dive operator, and then confirm attendance by signing up on NCRD's website. This greatly limits the amount of work that a dive organizer has to do, allows club members who are not familiar with organizing dives for the club to do that easily and eliminates the financial liability to the club.

So, if you want to organize local dives, please contact me at [secretary@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:secretary@rainbowdivers.org), and I will help with posting and announcing the dives on the club's website. Our next weekend of local dives is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, on the *Beachhopper II* and Sunday, June 16, at Point Lobos. If you dive in Monterey/Carmel on a regular basis and want the company of other Rainbow Divers, don't be shy and volunteer to organize local dives for the club. ☺

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

### 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President*, Karen Doby  
[president@rainbowdivers.org](mailto:president@rainbowdivers.org)

*Vice President*, Kathleen Doster  
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*Treasurer*, Tommy Todd  
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*Secretary*, Christophe Beraud  
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*Membership Director*, Dennis Nix  
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*Social Director*, Open

### 2013 VOLUNTEER STAFF

*Website Coordinator*, Christophe Beraud  
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*Mail Server Manager*, Michael Miller

*Diving For Life Liaison*, Kelly Thiemann  
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*Newsletter Editor*, Karen Doby  
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*Local Dive Planner*  
Christophe Beraud

*Communications Director*, Karen Doby  
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*Host, 2013 Summer Party & Gear Swap*  
Dennis Nix

*Host, 2013 Holiday Party & Annual Election*  
Dennis Nix

*Trip Leader, Channel Islands 2013*  
Brad Carter

*Trip Leader, Cozumel 2013*  
Tommy Todd

*Trip Leader, Seychelles 2013*  
Kathi Doster

*Trip Leader, Fiji 2013*  
Karen Doby

*Trip Leader, Micronesia 2014*  
Karen Doby

<http://www.rainbowdivers.org>

### CLUB POLICIES

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

Membership dues are \$35/year and \$55/year for domestic partners at the same address. A free email-only option is also available, although paid club membership is required for trip participation.

Advertising is available to club members for a business card-size ad, or for \$10/issue for non-club members, space permitting. 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.

**We're Having a Party and You're Invited !!**

Please join us! Attendance is free!

**Northern California Rainbow Divers**

**2013 SUMMER PARTY & GEAR SWAP**

*Pride Saturday, June 29, from 1-4 p.m.*

*at Dennis Nix' home in San Francisco, CA.*

**Please register online to let us know you are coming:**

<http://rainbowdivers.org/>

## President's Log

# 2013: What a Year It's Been Already!

by Karen Doby



Cozumel Men's Week divers in May, 2013



Cozumel Women's Week divers in May, 2013



Redspotted Hawkfish in Cozumel

*Photo by Sharon Ponder*



One of oh so many Cozumel turtles!

*Photo by Kathi Doster*

2013 is certainly off to a busy start! Northern California Rainbow Divers' new Board took office in January. Karen Doby heads the group as President with Kathleen Doster as Vice President. Tommy Todd continues as club Treasurer; Christophe Beraud now serves as Secretary and Dennis Nix as our new Membership Director. Excited to work on behalf of our club, we welcome your enthusiasm, ideas and contributions in 2013.

In February and March, NCRD responded to an urgent plea for help in restoring operations of the Pacific Grove hyperbaric chamber. Through the leadership of Ralph Wolf and Christophe Beraud, our club collected and sent \$10,585 to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, earmarked for the chamber. Thank you for your generosity and leadership in helping protect this vital resource for our local diving community.

In February, Kelly Thiemann announced that \$25,088 in DFL proceeds would be available for distribution by NCRD to charities in our local community. After nominating and voting for four worthy causes, NCRD presented the charitable donations in April.

May brought warm weather and clear waters to the Men's Week and Women's Week in Cozumel, both organized by Tommy Todd. A comfortable, spacious villa and meals catered by professional chefs complemented a fantastic two weeks of diving for Northern California Rainbow Divers. More about this in the next newsletter!

Finally, we've announced new local diving opportunities in Monterey/Carmel as well as group dive travel to CA Channel Islands, to Seychelles and to Micronesia. Don't forget, our Summer Party and Gear Swap is coming up soon on June 29 in SF — come join us! We hope to see you soon at one of our club's upcoming events. ☺



Kelly presents DFL donation to Rainbow Community Center



Christophe presents DFL donation to Art for Life / HALO



Tommy presents DFL donation to The Trevor Project



Cozumel's endemic Splendid Toadfish *Photo by Kathi Doster*

## Who is NCRD and Why Should You Be a Part of It?

by Dennis Nix

If you haven't renewed your club membership, you've probably gotten an email asking you to re-up. I thought I'd remind all of us who we are, why membership is important and why NCRD is so special.

**A Few Statistics:** Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD) is a club of over 120 members, pretty much split down the gender line which we cross a lot as we're all friends.

Our members are well trained. 66 of our members have some form of advanced certification. Among us are 13 divemasters, 10 instructors and 22 rescue divers. In other words, there's lots of help if something goes wrong on a dive.

We're a well travelled bunch. Our divers over the years have been to Fiji, Cozumel, Bali, Wakatobi, most of the Caribbean, Hawaii, the Red Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, Thailand, Myanmar, Mexico and Daly City. There are people in this world who couldn't find Yap on a map. Our members not only know where it is, they've been there, and they can discuss the five different ways to get there and flight times.

And these guys and gals aren't a bunch of yahoos looking to get drunk, drugged up or messing up the oceans. They're smart (sometimes downright intimidating); they care about the environment and its people. The latest example is that members are donating time and dollars to save the chamber in Pacific Grove. Members participate in clean-up days, fish count days and educational days. In other words, we're a good group of folks.

So why is all this important and what role do you play? When we travel around the world, we feel safe(r) and free to be who we are. We have little to fear about our dive buddies being jerks and insensitive to our host's culture. We're a beacon to other LGBTQ people, some who come out to us, others who are too afraid. We give them a little hope, show them LGBTQ are happy and positive. (We've been doing a low-tech version of "It Gets Better" for over 20 years.) We're also ambassadors to the straight world who've never met a gay person before. Some of my proudest moments as a gay man have been on NCRD trips.

I can't say what exactly being a club member will mean to you. It may be a great deal on a diving trip. Club members work hard to make sure the operation and resorts we use are going to be safe and give us a good value. I can share with you what I've gotten on a more personal level. My social life has changed dramatically because of the club. I met close friends, a boyfriend, lots of dive buddies. I've never had a diving accident, not because I'm such a great diver, but because of NCRD members. I've had a few close calls that were just that, thanks to my NCRD buddies being right there to make things right. Throughout the year, there's a party or two, which alone is worth the membership fee. We get discounts at some dive operators, get to nominate and give money to organizations we care about, and most importantly have fun! All this for \$35 a year for an individual or \$55 for a couple.

Woody Allen said "95% of life is showing up." So become a member, renew and just show up!

## SCUBA Show 2013: June 8-9

**SCUBA Show**, America's largest consumer dive expo, will take place June 8 and 9, 2013, at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> year of this popular event. The show will have 76,000 square feet of diving related exhibits with new and revolutionary dive gear, worldwide travel destinations and diving experts.

Highlighting the exhibit hall will be wacky marine artist Ron Steven (ROGEST), who will be painting new pieces of art on four different canvases with audience participation. The art will be auctioned or sold with the proceeds going to the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber.

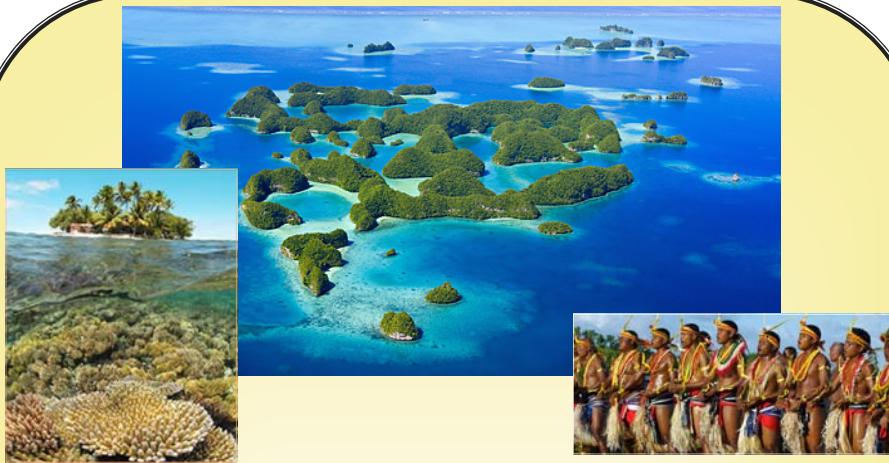
The show will headline a weekend of seminars that include some of the most popular dive experts around. Seminar topics will include all aspects of underwater photography and video, fascinating marine life, California diving, dive travel, dive medicine, shipwrecks, exploration, workshops, how to catch lobster and much more.

A continuous underwater film festival will run in the exhibit hall on a gigantic screen, featuring films from around the world by dozens of underwater imaging experts and novices too. Scuba Chef Trevor Cook will perform live California seafood cooking demonstrations.

Admission is free to the Saturday night party, Casablanca, in the beautiful Bogart lounge and will provide access to a gaming fund-raiser for California Ships 2 Reefs, a nonprofit organization.

Exhibit hall hours are Saturday, 10am to 6pm, and Sunday, from 10am to 5pm. Admission is \$12 and includes admission to exhibit hall and film festival (seminars are an additional charge). Discount coupons are available at California dive stores, on California dive charter boats and through California dive clubs.

For more info on *SCUBA Show 2013*, check it out at [www.ScubaShow.com](http://www.ScubaShow.com).



## Northern California Rainbow Divers are headed to beautiful Micronesia in 2014

Micronesia offers the most varied warm, tropical diving in the world.

**Yap** is very special in that its people are actively working to preserve their traditions, cultural heritage, language and way of life. It's not that they haven't been touched by Western civilization — they have, but made a conscious decision not to be assimilated by it. Consequently, Yap is as captivating topside as it is underwater. Yap is well known for its large resident population of schooling manta rays that may pass within inches of divers' heads at cleaning stations within its channels. Shark action and macro life are also abundant on Yap's world-class reefs.

*Yap: March 12-16, 2014 \$1,425 (4 nts)*

*Yap: March 9-16, 2014 \$2,150 (7 nts)*

The azure tropical waters of **Palau**, its unspoiled reefs, blue holes, hidden caves and walls are spectacular and host the world's first official Shark Sanctuary, where water currents bring in large pelagics like grey reef sharks, white-tip sharks and manta rays. Even better, Northern California Rainbow Divers has

scheduled this trip to coincide with the mantas' and sharks' mating season! Palau's biodiverse waters boast an astonishing 1,500 species of fish and 500 species of coral, including eels, cuttlefish, mandarinfish, nudibranchs, crabs, shrimps, giant clams weighing a quarter of a ton, even the rarely seen chambered nautilus and a lake with 21 million pulsating stingless jellyfish!

*Palau: March 16-23, 2014 \$2,500 (7 nts)*

Micronesia is rich in World War II history, both on land and underwater. Remnants of gun emplacements can still be seen in caves on the rock islands, and downed planes, ships and tanks dot the marine landscape. **Chuuk**, formerly known as Truk Lagoon, sports the best wreck diving the world has to offer, with a density of wrecks that is unmatched anywhere else in the world. Strong, constant currents also bring into the lagoon the nutrients required for healthy fish life. It's not surprising that over 300 varieties of hard and soft corals thrive in Chuuk's waters.

*Chuuk: March 23-31, 2014 \$1,800 (8 nts)*

**JOIN US! SPOTS AVAILABLE**  
**Recreational, CCR & Tech Divers Welcome**

<http://rainbowdivers.org/>

## Summer Party: June 29

Join fellow Rainbow Divers for our annual summer party and gear swap. This is always a fun event and an opportunity to hear about upcoming trips, hang out with divers and meet new friends. This year the party will be at Dennis Nix' house in San Francisco on the Saturday before Pride, June 29, from 1-4 p.m.

- meet more club members
- catch up with old friends
- hear about fun dive spots
- give away or pick up used dive gear
- get more connected with NCRD

We'll have plenty to eat, plenty of fun! Feel free to bring any gear you'd like to trade, sell or give away. ☺

## PG Chamber Thanks You

In early 2013, Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD) raised \$5,585 from members and the local dive community towards the re-opening and continued operation of the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber. Together with the \$5,000 matching grant from an anonymous NCRD member, we sent checks totaling \$10,585 to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, earmarked for the chamber.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation responded to your generous support with a resounding thanks for your leadership in helping the chamber get back online and continue to play its part in ensuring that our local coast remains a world-class dive destination.

If you sent a donation, you may wish to download a copy of their thank-you letter from NCRD's website for your records. This letter, in combination with your cancelled check, PayPal receipt or email receipt from Northern California Rainbow Divers showing the amount of your gift, will document your tax-deductible 501(c)(3) donation to the chamber for IRS purposes.

If you wish to donate, please visit [www.mbnmsf.org/pages/donate-pgb.html](http://www.mbnmsf.org/pages/donate-pgb.html) ☺

## Board Meetings

**Tuesday, May 28**

Board meetings are open to club members. If you are interested in attending, please email Karen at president@rainbowdivers.org

## Summer Party & Gear Swap

**Saturday afternoon,  
June 29 1-4 p.m. PDT**

### Party Location

Our 2013 summer party and gear swap will be held in San Francisco, CA., at the home of Dennis Nix. The street address will be included in your online registration for this event.



Northern California Rainbow Divers  
3600 Forest Avenue  
South Lake Tahoe, CA. 96150

## Calendar

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

Non-Diving Events	California Diving	Exotic Dive Destinations
<b>May 28, 2013 6:30 p.m. PDT</b> <i>Board Meeting via Skype</i>	<b>June 15, 2013</b> <i>Boat Dives on Beachhopper II Monterey, CA</i>	<b>September 21-28, 2013</b> <i>Diving For Life: divingforlife.org Curacao, Caribbean</i>
<b>June 8-9, 2013</b> <i>SCUBA Show 2013</i> Long Beach Convention Center, CA.	<b>June 16, 2013</b> <i>Shore Dives Point Lobos, CA</i>	<b>September 23-28, 2013</b> <i>Garden Island Resort Taveuni, Fiji Islands</i>
<b>June 29, 2013 1-4 p.m. PDT</b> <i>Summer Party and Gear Swap</i> Held at the home of Dennis Nix in San Francisco, CA.	<b>July 25-28, 2013</b> <i>Conception Liveaboard Channel Islands, including San Nicolas Southern California</i> <b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>September 28-October 5, 2013</b> <i>Nai'a Liveaboard Bligh Waters, Fiji Islands</i> <b>SOLD OUT</b>
		<b>October 3-10, 2013</b> <i>Chalet Cote Mer, Praslin Seychelles, Africa</i>
		<b>March 9-16, 2014</b> <i>Yap Pacific Dive Resort Yap, Micronesia</i>
		<b>March 16-23, 2014</b> <i>Tropic Dancer Liveaboard Palau, Micronesia</i>
		<b>March 23-31, 2014</b> <i>Blue Lagoon Resort Chuuk, Micronesia</i>