

BOTTOM TIMES

Newsletter for the Redwood Empire Divers Scuba Club
June 2005

June General Meeting

Hope to see everyone at the June general meeting. It will be held on June 2nd, Round table pizza, 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the June camp out at Russian Gulch.

We also have a Guest speaker, Jennifer Stock, Education Coordinator for the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. This is no financial institution, but an underwater island 9.5 miles long by 4.5 miles wide that sits on the edge of the continental shelf. Its peaks rise to 130 feet below the surface of the ocean. This unique rock reef habitat provides valuable space and resources for fishes, and inverte-

brates and is a destination feeding ground for the migratory species like humpback and blue whales, and black footed albatross. Video footage taken from a 2 person submersible will be highlighted with a description of what the sanctuary does to protect this unique environment.

Business Meeting

The next business meeting is scheduled for June 16, 7:00 pm at the Redwood Café in Cotati. All are welcome to come and have some input in the upcoming events planned for the club.

June Dive

On June 3rd through June 5th The club will be diving at Russian Gulch. Jed has two sights reserved in his name and his wife Kim has two sights reserved in her name. This is a first come first served camp ground so the first person there should try and get all 4 sights together.

Lobster Trip

There are only two spots available for the lobster trip on November 10-11-12 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) Contact Gary at 707-763-8300 for further information.

For those of you who haven't paid in full, the balance of \$285.00 is due on June 1st. Since the meeting is on the 2nd feel free to bring it then.

Bamboo Reef

If you have forgotten any last minute dive gear before the comp out, remember to support out local dive shop and club supporter, the Bamboo Reef, in Rohnert Park. Let Tom know you're an R.E.D. member.

Club

Camp out

**Friday June 3rd
Through
Sunday June 5th
Russian Gulch
Campground
Be there!**

A Letter about Boat Etiquette

By a concerned boat owner

“ The time has come to express my opinion on how to treat boat owner. 1st. Give them some notice When you want a ride” Ask ahead of time if they have any spots left of the boat for another diver. 2nd. “Take the extra mile to show up at the persons house, so you can help them pack the boat and clean the boat after the dive. 3rd. Help while you are on the boat. Keep it clean. Help pull the anchor.” Keep your gear organized. 4th. “At the end kick down at least \$15-\$20 for the ride.”

“Thanks for listening”

Arena Rock

By Mark Davis

Saturday morning, Jerry and I trailered his boat to Arena Cove at 8:00 am. Clave was already there with his boat and soon Gary arrived with his boat and Eric and another Gary. Six people/three boats. We were able to each bring two tanks. We motored out to the Rock with no problem. The sea was calm. It was a beautiful perfect day.

The first dive was awesome. I followed the anchor line down to 50' and was met by a lingcod with a head as big as a basketball. Of course, my gun was not loaded yet. I hunted for a while and shot a 10 lb. ling. Then, I shot a rockfish at close range and my gun seemed to have a problem. So I let it hang from the lanyard and went to work on a wall of scallops in front of me.

Arena Rock is one of the best dives in Calif. I had heard about it for years and finally got to dive the Rock last year with the club. In fact, the Arena Rock dive is what led me to get involved with RED. The walls of the Rock are covered with sea life. There are "fields" of huge white Metridium anemones and there are scallops everywhere. I have never seen so many big Lingcod and there are lots of big Rockfish also.

After the dive, I surfaced right by the boat. Jerry did too and we strapped on another tank for the next dive. I determined that my spear gun was working when I buried an arrow in the transom. Oops!! The first dive relaxed us and the second dive was even better. My air was lasting and I did some exploring. There are a lot of caves. I swam into one as far as I could and still feel safe, and could still not tell how far back it went. I also shot a couple of nice fish, including a 20lb Ling. This time I surfaced down current and took a tow from Gary, which saved me a tough swim. The prop chewed up one of my long fins. The other two boats had waited longer to do their second dive, so Clay waited for everyone to finish, while Jerry and I headed back to the pier. The game had been abundant and the hunting was successful for all. I think Eric ended up with the best stringer. He had a couple of "Hog Lingcod".

Jerry and I unloaded our scuba gear, and I got a couple of big Dungeness crabs from a guy on the pier for five bucks apiece.

Then, we went back out in the boat to the reef that is at the north point of the cove and quickly got partial limits of abalone. It was a little rough, so we moved further inside the cove to mark our report cards in an area that was flat calm. At least, it was flat calm until I looked up to see the sleeper wave from hell coming right at us and we were suddenly upside down!! I started grabbing gear and Jerry towed the boat over to the shallow water where he did the impossible and righted the boat by himself. About that time Gary showed up and towed Jerry to the pier while I searched for the rest of our stuff. Most of our gear and catch was recovered.

Gary picked me up and we went back to the pier. Jerry's boat was suspended on the lift about five feet up and was not moving. The power was out and no one knew for how long!! Can you say jinxed?!! Oh well, we were all stuck there for a while, so I took a shower while Jerry checked out his motor. When I got out of the shower the guy working in the office asked me if I heard about what happened to my buddy's boat. I said, "Yes, I was with him when it capsized." He said, "No, I meant when the engine caught on fire. I just put it out with the fire extinguisher," I really did think that he was kidding. He wasn't.

We went back to the house and took it easy. We had fresh crab for our dinner and Sunday night's "Captain's Plate" was delicious, Lingcod in beer batter, Scallops breaded in a Panko (Japanese breadcrumbs), Marks secret family recipe Cajun style crab cakes, and Abalone Frit-tata!

Despite the mishaps, it was a great weekend on the coast, the Arena Rock dive was a great experience, and I cant wait to go back!!!