

# 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 Gary Morgret

**A**s is traditional each December, newly elected board members are invited to attend the last meeting of the outgoing board. (All members are always welcome to attend board meetings, which are traditionally held on the third Thursday of each month). At the December 19 meeting, lame duck board members Gary Morgret (Secretary), Maureen McEvoy (Programs) and Will de Soria (Newsletter) welcomed their replacements, Lisa Newman (Secretary), Tom Martinchek (Programs) and Chris Hunrath (Newsletter). Renewing their commitment to the board were Paul Duhamel (Dive Planner), Peg Stone (Treasurer) and Ralph Wolf (Membership). All but Ralph attended the pot luck brunch hosted by Peg.

A proposed April Easter Weekend Vision trip to the Northern Channel Islands, which would include kayak-

ing and docent-led island hikes, was discussed and approved, with Peg Stone and Gary Morgret as co-coordinators. For more details, see the article in this issue.

A Grrl Dive was scheduled for the morning of Saturday, January 22, and will, as have other recent women's dive events, be coordinated by Kathy Conte. The board also approved a dive event on the same day for those who like to sleep late, coordinated by Will de Soria. See articles about both dives in this issue.

Paul's suggestion that we do another Cypress Sea charter inside Pt. Lobos was discussed and approved for Presidents Weekend, February 21. Lisa expressed interest in putting together a weekend at Salt Point, with accommodations at Sea Ranch, on the north coast, and was encouraged to research the possibilities. Will offered to help.

Peg's financial report indicated that when late year membership deposits have cleared, we will have a balance above \$7000. Peg intends to learn and use Quickbooks, which should help make the club financial picture clearer.



## Kayaking, Hiking and Diving... Oh My!

By Gary Morgret and Peg Stone

**N**CRD is offering a novel trip to the Northern Channel islands in April of 2000. How about exploring the islands at the peak of the wildflower season, guided by a naturalist? How about traveling in kayaks to the edges of the islands, exploring nooks and crannies?

How about entering once again that rich and wonderful undersea world just off the islands? Well, then, let us tell you about NCRD's Easter weekend venture!

We'll be heading out for a three day trip aboard our beloved Vision, April 22-24, with a naturalist on board who will show slides and take us to the islands for hikes, perhaps even to a sea lion rookery. Kayaks will be provided as part of the package, so you can take an above-water spin as well as plunging beneath to the world of kelp-forest cathedrals, wild

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January 11, 2000

Tuesday

7:00 PM

St. Francis  
Lutheran  
Church

152 Church  
Street, San  
Francisco  
(Across the street  
from Safeway)

Club Meeting





## April Vision Trip - Kayaking, Hiking and Diving

*Continued from Page 1*

varieties of nudibranchs, cavorting sea lions, and pinnacles thriving with invertebrate life.

With the kayaks included, the total price is \$410 per person. If we have nondivers accompanying us, we will allow a total of 30 participants. This is a great chance for a nondiver to come along, with plenty of activities and just plain relaxing to do. And the nondiving activities offer plenty of alternatives for newer divers who want to sit out some of the more advanced dives.

Send your \$100 deposit (per participant) to Peg Stone, 527 66th Street, Oakland CA 94609. They must be received by January 10, or you--or a friend--may bring your check to the meeting on January 11. Please indicate if any persons covered by the deposits are non divers. If you want Peg to call you confirming receipt, please include a note with your phone number. If more deposits are received than there are spaces, a lottery will be held at the January meeting. Final payments are due by February 15, in the amount of \$310, to Peg at the same address.

So get out your Millennium calendar, mark off that Easter weekend, and send us your deposit. What could be more cheering during the post holiday blues than the thought of fresh sea breezes tossing the flowers about, or skimming across the sea as you stare eye-to-eye, nestled in your kayak, with a curious sea-lion? Plus diving! It's perfect!



## Special Pt. Lobos Dives Aboard the Cypress Sea February 21st

*By Paul Duhamel*

Last October we arranged with Captain Phil to do boat dives at Pt. Lobos aboard the Cypress Sea. We had three excellent dives in Bluefish Cove and a unanimous request from those who went to do it again - soon! So, we have arranged a return trip on Monday, President's Day, February 21st. We load the boat later than usual - 8:00 a.m. at the Municipal Pier in Monterey, then drive over to Pt. Lobos and meet the Cypress Sea at Whaler's Cove. A quick snorkel out to the boat near the boat ramp and it's off to three sites in the reserve. No long kicks out to the dive sites, and we know we can count on Captain Phil to take us to some excellent spots! The charter will be the usual reduced load of 20 divers, which gives everyone extra room on the dive deck. A tariff of \$80, covers 3 tank dives, includes breakfast bagels and a full lunch, and also includes the cost of Pt. Lobos reservations. Spots are sure to disappear quickly, so reserve your chance to dive Pt. Lobos on the Cypress Sea by sending a check payable to NCRD for \$80, to Paul Duhamel (1850 Sacramento Street, No. 502, San Francisco, CA 94109).

## 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

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### Other Departments

Liaison: Diving for Life • Steve Graham  
• 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](http://www.rainbowdivers.org)



# *Diving, Kayaking and Hiking*

## *.... Oh My!*

*A perfect trip for non-diving partners!*



*Easter Weekend!*



Join us Easter weekend, *April 22-24, 2000*, for a Northern California Rainbow Divers first! A 3 day diving, kayaking and hiking trip in and *on* the Channel Islands - aboard our favorite boat - the *Vision!*

Stroll the islands at the peak of Wildflower season, explore the caves, nooks and crannies of the islands and enjoy some of the best diving California has to offer - all in one trip. Our naturalist will show us slides and then take those interested onto the islands for hikes (perhaps even to a sea lion rookery). Kayaks will be provided as part of the package for above water spins and of course divers will explore the world of kelp forest cathedrals, wild varieties of nudi-

branches, the always gregarious garibaldi, cavorting sea lions and current blown pinnacles teeming with invertebrate life.

Join your leaders, Peg Stone and Gary Morgret, for a thrilling new adventure. Cost will be \$410 per person and includes kayaks, a naturalist on the hikes, all the diving you can do and of course great food.

Deposits are due by *January 10th* or bring them to the general NCRD meeting January 11th. Please send \$100. per person to Peg Stone, 527 66th Street, Oakland, CA 94609. The final payment of \$310 will be due *February 15th*. For further information call Gary at 415.863.5314 or Peg at 510.547.8215



# **Happy New Year! The World Didn't End... Let's Go Diving!**

**(There are a few spots left on the Honduras  
Trip. If you act fast, you can still join us!)**

**Who: NCRD, Triangle Divers of New York, and YOU!**

**What: 7 nights, 3 meals a day, 16 boat dives**

**When: 2/26/00 to 3/4/00**

**Where: Inn of the Last Resort, Roatan, Honduras**

**Why: For the fun of it!**

**How much: \$797 land package.**

**Air: \$585 group rate- Scuba Travel Venture 800-298-9009**

**Call Trip Coordinator Steve Graham at 510-836-3647 to tell him you're  
interested. Log into the NCRD website, [www.rainbowdivers.org](http://www.rainbowdivers.org) for an  
application and details. Hurry, the group rate for airfare goes away soon!**



## The Grrls are Back in Town

By Kathy Conte

**T**he grrl dive is back. Join us on Saturday, January 22 for a dive at the breakwater. This is the social event of the post-holiday season. No shopping, cooking, eating, liping or griping required. This dive is guaranteed to help you shed pounds, lower your cholesterol and elevate your breasts. Bring your own sweet self and dive with us. We'll meet at 9:00, do a couple of dives, tell a few jokes, oogle the straight girls, take a nap, dish on whoever isn't there...you know the drill. Bring a friend. And maybe dive with the guys in the afternoon. See



Kathy demonstrating in-between-dives nap position #1 & 2



Will's dive plans for the same day on the back page.



## Creature of the Month

By Chris Hunrath

This is the Pacific Electric Ray (Torpedo Californica). It's one of the Rays in the Torpedinidae family and is common to the shores of California. With a maximum length of about 4 1/2 feet, it can range from near black to light gray in color and often has small black spots as shown. A nocturnal creature, it blends in so well with the sandy bottom that at times only its eyes can be seen. It can live in very shallow water to the mid 600' and eats small fishes and benthic invertebrates.

Rayne Mc George and I spotted one in the sand while diving Breakwater this November.

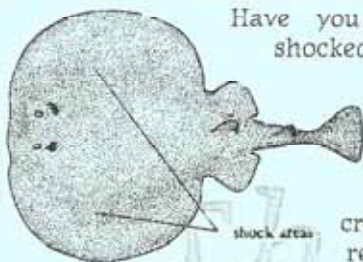
This creature is interesting because it has organs that can deliver a powerful elec-

tric shock. Like other types of electric fishes, it has areas of highly compact nerve endings. These areas on the electric ray can deliver 200 volts for about one-second. After that, the nerve cells must rest before the next discharge.

Have you ever been shocked underwater? Divers should always treat aquatic creatures with respect, but this one gives

us good reason.

Please E-mail me (threshermna@aol.com) your suggestions for the Creature of the Month. It should be an interesting critter you have encountered on a dive and would like to know more about it. I will get facts on the critter from a variety of sources.



## Lets Go Diving EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 2000

**11** (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.

**22** (Saturday) Monterey Shore Dive: Grrl Dive at the Breakwater! See the article this page for details. Call or e-mail Kathy Conte with any questions at (650) 363-9303 (katznjammer@earthlink.net). Also see next entry.

**22** (Saturday) Monterey Shore Dive: "Oh How I Hate to Get Up In the Morning" Afternoon Dive at the Breakwater. Held in conjunction with/after the Grrl Dive. See the article on the back page for details. Call or e-mail Will De Soria with questions at (415) 864-7775 (willds@worldnet.att.net).

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.

**23** (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.

APRIL

**22-24** (Saturday - Monday: Easter Weekend) Northern Channel Islands Liveaboard 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@planetaria.net) or Peg Stone (510) 547-8215 (pstone@csgadvisors.com) with questions.





## Gay Dive Specialists Join our gay/lesbian groups!

**Bonaire**—*Lions Dive*, For Women Only, Oct. 30-Nov. 6, 1999

**Belize**—*Wind Dancer*, Nov. 20-27, 1999  
and Dec. 25, 1999-Jan. 1, 2000

**Truk Lagoon**—*Truk Aggressor II*, Mar. 19-26, 2000

**Palau**—*Sun Dancer II*, Mar. 29-Apr. 8, 2000

**Venezuela**—*Antares Dancer*, April 1-8, 2000

**Papua New Guinea**—*feBrina*, Aug. 20-28, 2000

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the area regularly?**

Sharron and Lisa can lead you on dives and point out the interesting sites. We have been diving extensively in Monterey and Carmel for several years. Guided Tours available on weekends. Reasonable Rates.

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



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

## "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" Afternoon Dives Scheduled January 22

By Will de Soria



ou know who you are. Jaake Jacobson. Greg Abrams. Ralph Wolf. Among others. What would be a sensible time for those of us who like to sleep late?

Say 2:00 p.m.?

I decided on 2:00 for the first dive because it allows a leisurely waking up period, followed by brunch, followed by a drive to Monterey in sensible light and an arrival unmarred by lack of parking, just in time to catch up with the women in the club who had arrived before 9:00 for the Grrl Dives, and who might like to join us for one more. Monterey can be fabulous on a winter afternoon.

No summer northwest winds can mean no surge. Winter diving can be warm (mid 60s), the sea can be like glass, and I've seen 100' visibility on one spectacular winter day a couple of years ago.

So, we'll meet January 22 for a 2:00 first dive, followed by a second or third twilight dive at, say, 5:00, just before sunset, followed by a dinner in Monterey, followed by a happy drive home. For more information you may reach me at 415.864.7775 (after 10:00 a.m., of course) or [Willds@world-net.att.net](mailto:Willds@world-net.att.net).

The Buddy Line