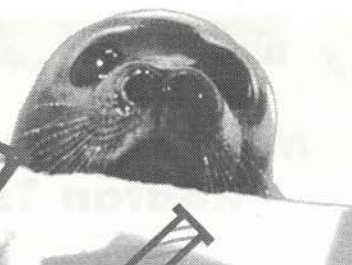
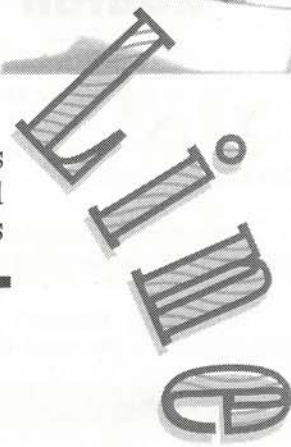


# The Buddy



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 Lisa Newman

**T**he March board meeting was held Thursday the 23rd.

Vouchers are in the mail! Divers on the February 21st Cypress Sea trip (that was cancelled due to conditions) have been sent vouchers that are good for any Cypress boat dive trip.

Paul Duhamel, dive coordi-

nator extraordinaire, has set up some great local diving opportunities for us. Shore diving at Pt. Lobos on the 8th of April and the Cypress Point on the 13th of May! There will be no Cypress Sea or Point trips the month of April due to the Vision trip. If you aren't going on this month's Vision trip, there's one coming up in November. It'll be four days of

great diving in the Southern and Northern Channel Islands. Mark your calendars!

Got a favorite place to dive? Want to lead a club dive trip? Paul Duhamel, Gary Morgret and Steve Graham are writing up Dive Planning Procedures for the club that will make coordinating club trips so much easier. We'll keep you informed!



## NCRD Winner of 1999 Underwater Photo Society shootout shares slides from Los Roques, Veneauela

By Paul J. Duhamel

**L**ast June NCRD's own Jim McDemott won first prize in the Northern California Underwater Photographic Society's annual California Beach Dive Photo Contest in Monterey. Jim's prize was a weeklong liveaboard trip on the Peter Hughes Antares Dancer. Early last month, Jim spent a week diving in the Los Roques archipelago, located 105 miles due north of Caracas off the coast of Venezuela and 100 miles east of Bonaire. The more than 880 square miles of Los Roques

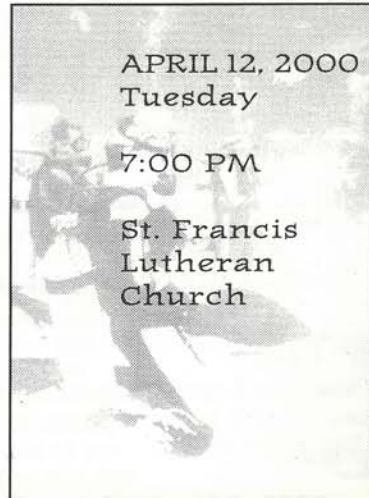
was declared a national park in 1972 and is the oldest marine park in the Caribbean.

Jim has generously agreed to share some of his underwater photography from the trip with the club. We are indeed fortunate to have Jim's talent to give us a glimpse of this little-traveled dive destination. So, you won't want to miss the April meeting featuring Jim's slide presentation. Meeting hours are 7:00 p.m. for socializing, with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. See you there!

APRIL 12, 2000  
Tuesday

7:00 PM

St. Francis  
Lutheran  
Church



Club Meeting





## My Favorite parts of the Roatan Trip were...

**Y**ou know, the short, pithy, even piquant phrase is not my style. If I could write for the New Yorker, I'd be rich. They pay by the word, you know. But by heroic effort:

...watching a complacent Rob as a fiercely irritated eel swam to the attack.

...squeezing through a hole in the lagoon reef with Ralph to dive the wall beyone.

...watching fish spawn, cleaning shrimp clean and eagle rays swim faster than I can.

...the challenging and long squeeze-through, the result of my wrong turn in the swim-through.

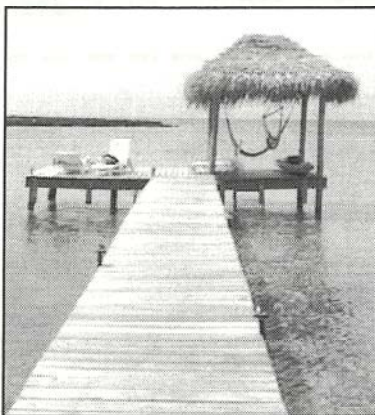
...gossiping about the liklihood of any of Camper's possible romantic liasons.

...discovering Ralph never snores.

...the far beyond the call of duty customer service extended by the resort and the dive operation.

...being with my Rainbow dive buds and getting to know them lots better.

-Will de Soria



The Broadwalk over the Lagoon, perfect for sunsets

...cute divemasters.

...the hole in the wall dive.

...Coca Cola cake.

...and my all time favorite... buying Camper drinks and hitting on him while writing the drinks on the heterosexuals' room sheets.

-Dennis Nix

More articles and photos of this Roatan Trip on  
Page 3, 4 and 6.

## Northern California Rainbow Divers

### NCRD Board of Directors

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• DivePlanner@RainbowDivers.org

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• 415/863-5314 • DFL@RainbowDivers.org

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

### Club Policies

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

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

### Club mail or inquiries:

NCRD • 584 Castro Street, #478  
San Francisco • CA 94114

Web Site:  
[www.rainbowdivers.org](http://www.rainbowdivers.org)



# My Favorite parts of the Roatan Trip were...

*continued from page 2*

...who bought drinks for Camper???

...my favourite (Canadian, eh?) parts of the Roatan trip were...

...being able to wear my lycra dive suit as much as I wanted (including dripping wet in the dining hall after my night snorkle).

...making baby talk to Dolphins who are probably smarter than me. They certainly can swim better.

...standing (well, floating) on the bow of the Aquila wreck -- "Titanic" style.

...figuring out how to watch the Beach Boys and the Simpsons (this is Honduras, remember), on the Dish TV.

...hearing the Toad Fish everywhere on the night dive (brrrp .. brrrp .. brrrp)... and finally seeing the sucker.

— Terry



Our slow, but dependable dive boat, with a sailor-capped Terry in the foreground, left.

...showing things I'd seen before to newer divers, and watching their horizons expand.

...making my 100th dive and seeing something I'd never seen before while making it. (I call it the top-ramen anemone).

...finding a rock-fish after the DM swam right past it.

...meeting 3 new people in NCRD and a dozen new people from Triangle Divers.

...remembering life without stress.

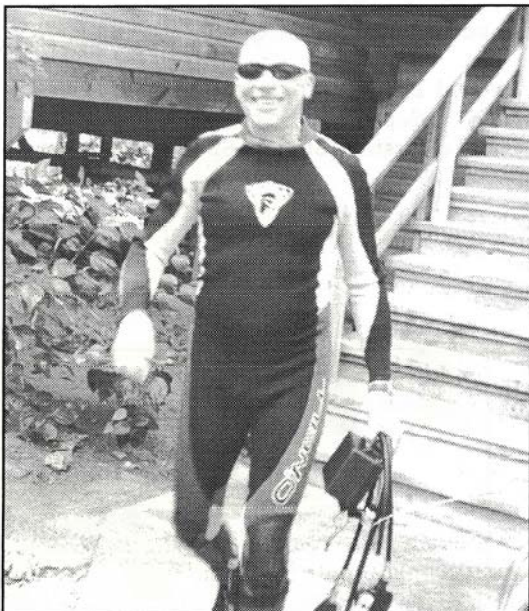
...living on island time.

...the mariachi muzak, playing Stairway to Heaven, and the crazy urinals at San Pedro Sula Airport. (It was a very "We're not in Kansas anymore" moment -- you had to be there.)

...coming home with as many people as we came with.

...D4L! D4L! D4L! D4L! D4L! D4L!

— Ralph Wolf



An unusual sight: Will, awake and on his way to the early morning (8:30) boat.

...the attack of the killer eel.

...the great new friends I met, the good food, and Ralphs hot body."

—Rob



Camper, in excellent form



# My Favorite parts of the Roatan Trip were...

*continued from page 3*

...the unexpected efficiency and service from TACA airlines.

...the quiet, "treehouse" ambiance and fabulous staff of the Inn of the Last Resort.

...how incredibly cool our "one woman" was the whole trip.

...flirting openly with Casper the waiter and half hoping he really does come to visit.

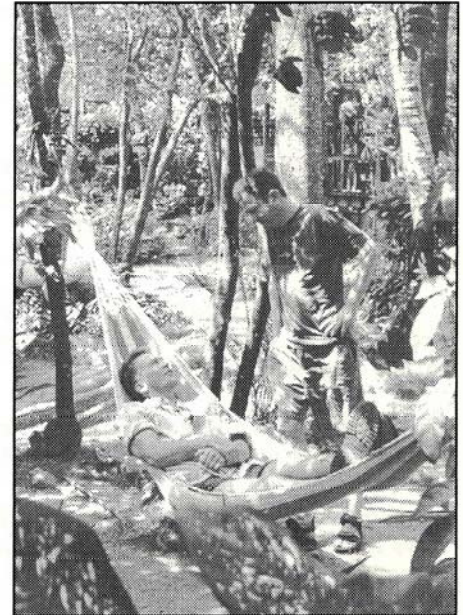
...the many dives where the best reefs were under 30 ft.

...the lagoon at night with the stars and spying on Camper "trading CD's" with Oscar.

...our incredible group, particularly Ralph and Will for their help and support.

...discovering our last night that Hans, the Swedish dive master, wasn't an airhead after all.

-Steve



N.Y. Village Dive Club guys enjoying a decidedly un-N.Y. moment.



Terry, Nikke (hidden), Rob, Dennis, Chris, David, Camper, Steve and Will at dinner.

...who bought drinks for Camper???

...well, not enough people. And you're going to pay for it when I get around to editing my travellog.

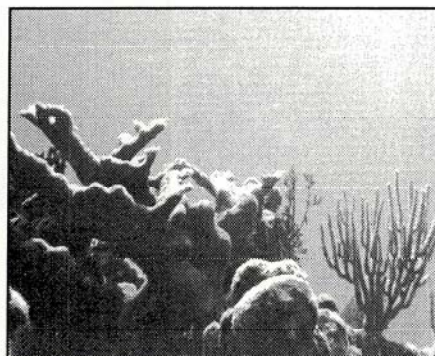
...I think you all should know that Oscar has access to the Inn's records. I have been telephoned. It's just a matter of time until he shows up on my doorstep, Britney Spears CD in hand, asking to stick it in my player.

...it's not easy being beautiful. Actually it's not all that easy being easy,either.

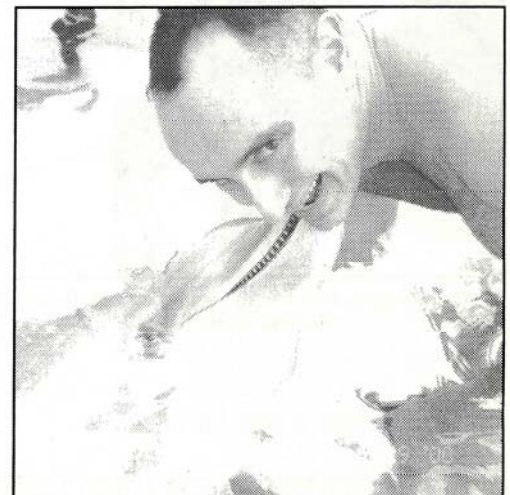
-Camper



Will, diving Nitrox



Much of the reefs were at 30 feet.



Terry being kissed by a Honduran native.



## NCRD Full Charter of the Cypress Point May 13th

By Paul Duhamel

**S**pring has sprung and we've chartered the Cypress Point on Saturday, May 13th, exclusively for NCRD members for a day of boat diving off Monterey and Carmel Bays. The boat will be a reduced load, one of our NCRD membership benefits, which gives us all more room on the dive deck and the rest of the boat. A tariff of \$80. covers 3 tank dives, and includes breakfast bagels and a full lunch. \$20 rebate if the boat sells out. The boat departs at 7:00 a.m. from the Municipal Pier in Monterey. Come with us for a day of fun, diving with fellow club members on the Cypress Point! To reserve your spot on the boat, send a check for \$80. made payable to NCRD c/o to Paul Duhamel (1850 Sacramento Street, No. 502, San Francisco, CA 94109).



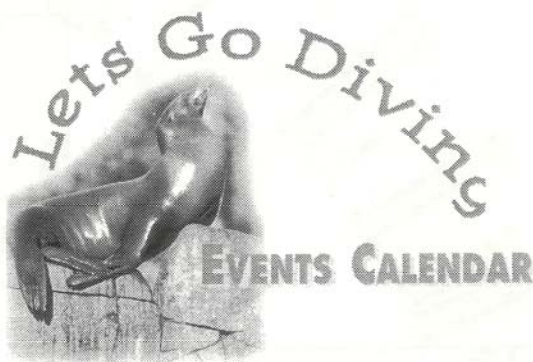
## NCRD May 27 Pt. Lobos Dives

By Paul Duhamel

**O**ur next club organized shore dives at Pt. Lobos State Park will take place Saturday, May 27th at Whalers Cove. Enjoy a day of relaxed diving (the park opens at 9:00 a.m.) and see the incredible marine life in this protected California reserve environment. A mere \$5.00 covers the cost of Pt. Lobos reservations and bottled water. Come join us for a day of easy entry/exit shore diving at Whalers Cove. The group is limited to 12 divers, so reserve your spot by sending a check for \$5.00 to Paul Duhamel (1850 Sacramento Street, No. 502, San Francisco, CA 94109).



On our way home: the crew in the truck, Steve, David, Camper and Jim, on the right.



### APRIL

**22-24** (Saturday - Monday: Easter Weekend) Northern Channel Islands Liveaboard on the Vision. Call or e-mail Gary Morgret (415) 863-5314 (gmorgret@planetaria.net) or Peg Stone (510) 547-8215 (pstone@csgadvisors.com) with questions.

### MAY

**13** (Saturday) Boat Dive: Cypress Point: First 2000 NCRD charter of the Cypress Point! 7:00 a.m. departure from the Municipal Pier in Monterey for three tank dives. Includes breakfast bagels and a full lunch at a tariff of \$80. See newsletter article for details. Send checks to Paul Duhamel, 1850 Sacramento St., No. 502, SF, CA 94109. Call or e-mail Paul Duhamel with questions at (415) 673-6146; (RamsesRa@aol.com).

**20** (Saturday) Pt. Lobos Grrl Dive: Call or e-mail Kathy Conte with any questions at (650) 363-9303 (katznjammer@earthlink.net).

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



## 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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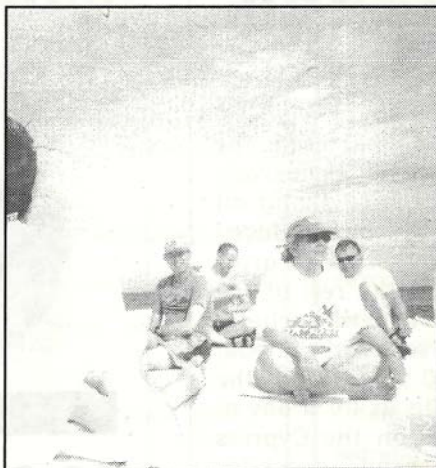




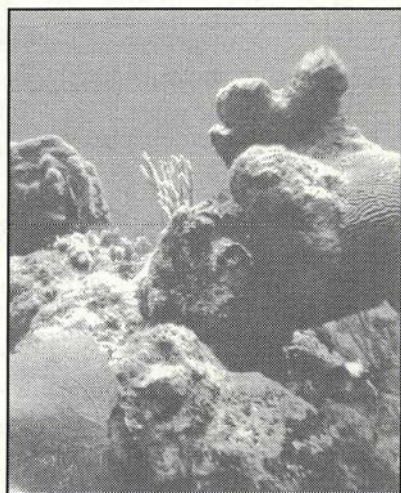
## My Favorite parts of the Roatan Trip were...



Camperflanked by two unidentified divers.



Rainbow, Triangle and Village Dive Club divers of the roof at the dive boat.



A last look at the fabulous reefs of Roatan.



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San Francisco, CA 94114

