

The Buddy



The Newsletter of the Northern California Rainbow Divers
A Scuba Diving Club for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgendered Divers and Their Friends



Join the Party for Pride 2000, in San Jose or San Francisco!

By Ralph Wolf

It's Pride Season again and Rainbow Divers will be there! The San Jose Festival will be Saturday and Sunday June 10th and 11th from 10am to 6pm both days. The San Francisco Festival happens just two weeks later, on June 24th and 25th, 12-6pm Saturday, and 12-7pm on Sunday. For the first time, the dive club will have booths set up on both days at both festivals. There'll even be fireworks on Saturday night, June 10th, at the San Jose festival! For more information, check out www.sjgaypride.com or www.sfpride.org for the latest news about this year's festivals.

NCRD needs volunteers to help set up and staff our booths at the festivals. It's a lot of fun and very little work.

Here are just some of the reasons why everyone enjoyed helping out last year:

- You meet lots of interesting people who share your passion for diving.

- It's a great opportunity to meet friends, make new friends, trade dive stories and brag about your last tropical vacation.

- You can take a break from the crowds, get out of the sun, and rest your tired feet.

- The club provides free cold drinks for all volunteers. (Imagine: No lines! No Stupid Tickets! In fact, any NCRD member who stops by the booth to say 'hi' can grab a cold

one! Just wear an NCRD hat or T-shirt.)

- Cute interesting people come up and say 'this is so cool! I've always wanted to dive! I had no idea there was a queer dive club!'

- The "work" is easy - all you have to do is talk about your glamorous life as a diver! Volunteers describe what the club does, answer questions about certification, sign up new members, and pass out information. We'll have literature, a photo album and dive gear in the booth, so there'll be plenty to talk about. Don't forget to ask for their name and phone number! (for the mailing list, of course)

Please sign up for one or more half-hour slots at either or both of the festivals! You'll be glad you did! Two volunteers are needed to staff the booth for each time slot. Anyone who arrives early or stays late to help

with setting up or tearing down the booth will be nominated for sainthood - please talk to one of the volunteer coordinators, or the membership chair if you can lend a hand.

To sign up for either festival, talk to one of us at either the May 9th or June 6th club meeting, or contact one of the following people:

- Eddie Long, Volunteer Coordinator for SF Pride, 415-665-6411 or eddielong@earthlink.net.
- Darlene Moirao, Volunteer Coordinator for SJ Pride, 925-335-9699 or darlinator@aol.com.
- Ralph Wolf, Membership Chair, 408-241-5423 or membership@rainbowdivers.org

Oh yeah, if anyone has a sewing machine and would be willing to make a new Rainbow Dive Flag for the club please contact Ralph. Our current one is looking just a little bit tragic...

Club Meeting



May 9, 2000
Tuesday

7:00 PM

St. Francis Lutheran Church,
San Francisco
(Church and Market St.)



Creature of the Month

By Chris Hunrath

Greg Harrington and Eddie Long discovered an interesting life form on a recent dive.

Because of its size, they suspected it to be a shark egg of some type. I was a clear, volleyball-sized object with a golfball sized opaque center. Although only sharks and rays lay eggs of any size, this creature turned out to be more closely related to a jellyfish than a shark. I will provide facts on this beauty in a future newsletter. This month's article will be on sharks.

Sharks and rays produce young in several ways (unlike humans, which have numerous and sometimes bizarre methods). Species that bear live young are called viviparous and the ones that produce eggs are included in the ovoviviparous types. Can you believe my spell check didn't highlight either one of these terms!

Most sharks and rays bear live young. There are many interesting facts on this subject. Of note is the fact that unborn sharks will feed on unfertilized eggs and less developed embryos. Talk about sibling rivalry!

There are a few types of sharks that lay eggs. Some can be found in our area. The Horn shark and the Swell shark are two, though Monterey is reported to be the northern limit of their range.

Horn shark egg

The egg coating consists of a keratin substance not unlike human hair and nails. The Horn shark egg has a "cork screw" appearance; the Swell shark egg looks quite different. It has spring like tendrils that have two functions, they help the egg eject from the adult shark and get tangled on objects to anchor it on the sea floor. This prevents the egg from being washed ashore and destroyed.



Swell shark egg

The cases occasionally wash ashore and have been called "mermaids purses". The beached cases are always empty form either the emergence of the baby shark or predators eating the embryo. Finding a shark or ray egg intact in the ocean is a rare treat. Sometimes they have been successfully hatched in salt-water aquariums. Look for these eggs on Pt. Lobos and Vision trip dives. With a little luck, you may also encounter the adult sharks. Enjoy!



Northern California Rainbow Divers

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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

New Open Water and New Advanced Classes Announced

By William de Soria

Rainbow Divers has coordinated annual open water classes for gay and lesbian non-divers, who go on to become new members, for a very long time. Club member (and PADI and SSI Instructor) Chuck Buckla taught those classes. Then, in 1998, Chuck suggested having the club organize various advanced classes for its members only. The response was tremendous, and NCRD starting offering classes for everything from Advanced Certification all the way to Divemaster, with Nitrox, Navigation and Photography in between. By the time we suc-



1999 Open Water Class

cessfully repeated that cycle of classes in 1999, we had 87 registrants complete upgraded certification level or specialty certification classes. Some individuals signed up repeatedly. Ralph Wolf and I, for instance, went from Open Water certification to Divemaster, taking all the classes with the club. Altogether, ten members became brand new Divemasters over those two years.

Time for the 2000 cycle. Time to spend time having fun with your buddies while upgrading your certification level. Time (again) to be the best diver you can be.

Get out your calendars:

May 6-7 & 13-14: This year's first Open Water class, for

non-divers, and scheduled before Pride Weekend, for the first time. At press time, the class was full.



1999 Dive Med Class

July 15-16 & 22-23: **Open Water class.** Limited to 6 non-divers, classes held at Diver Dan's in Santa Clara the first weekend; certifying shore dives in Monterey on the second.

August 5-6: **Advanced Certification class.** Certifying shore dives on Saturday, certifying deep dives from a boat on Sunday; both in Monterey.

August 26-27 & September 2-3: **Open Water class.** Limited to 6 non-divers, classes (to be confirmed) at Wallins, in San Carlos on the first weekend; certifying shore dives on the second weekend in Monterey.

September 23-24: **Advanced Certification class.** Certifying shore dives on Saturday, deep dives off a boat in Monterey on Sunday.

October 14-15: **Navigation, Nitrox, Dry Suit classes.** Any member may choose one or two specialties to complete over this weekend; Certifying dives in Monterey.

October 28-29: **Rescue Diver course** begins; followed by the scheduling of a Divemaster course.

To Be Announced: We anticipate more than just two Open Water classes, and they will most likely be scheduled in late September and October, in San Francisco, San Carlos and Santa Clara.

I suggest you encourage your friends who want to learn how to dive, to sign up early. Also explain to them that a good reason to learn to dive with us is they can save money: our classes are offered at a significant discount (the numbers are still being crunched). Another reason is that the normal ratio of



1999 Divemaster Class

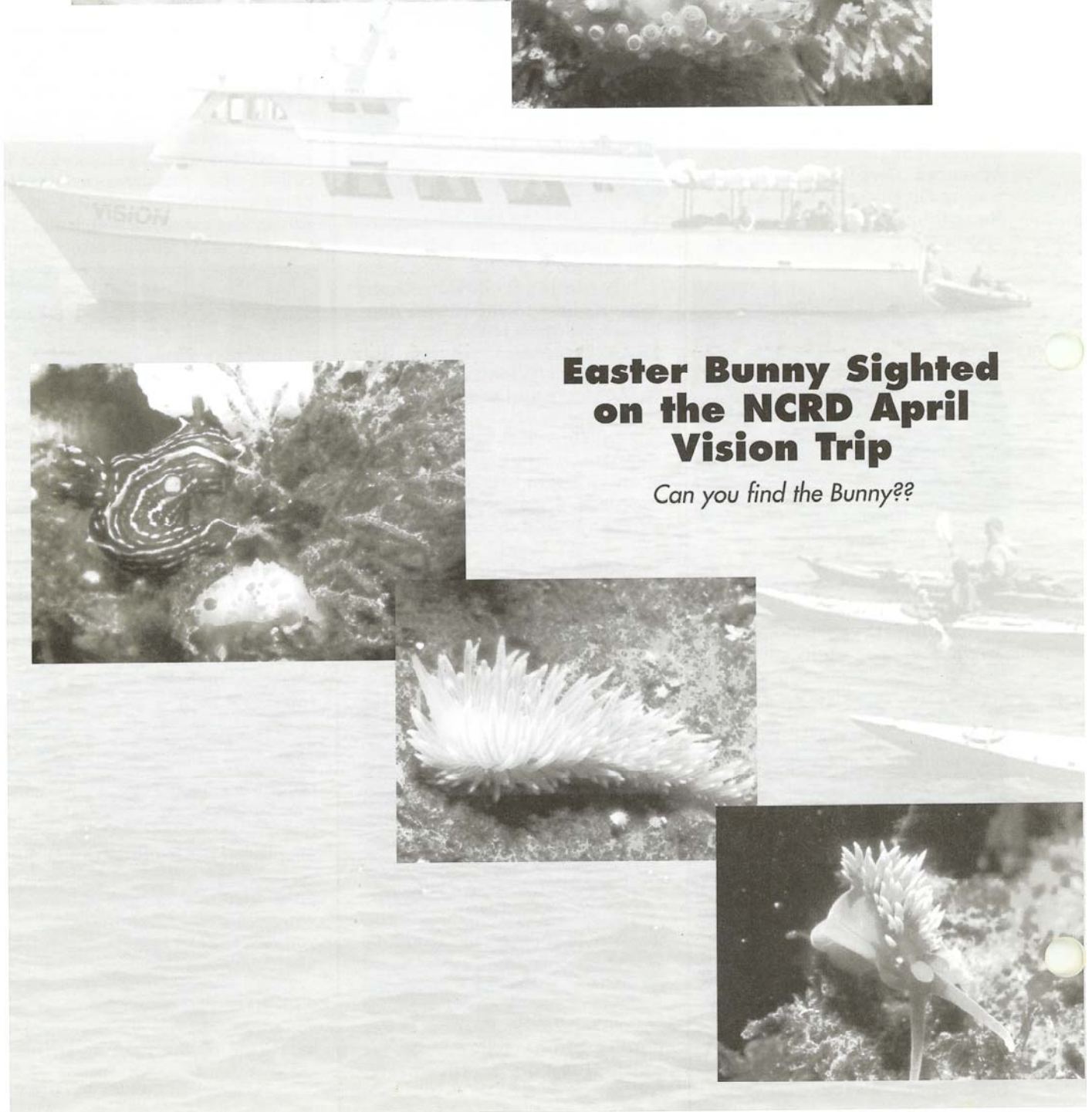
students to teaching staff in almost all commercial open water classes—where profit is the first consideration—is 5 students to every 1 staff member. Our classes reduce that ratio to 2 to 1: the six students will be accompanied in the pool and the ocean by an Instructor and at least two Divemasters. The classes will be taught by, and enrollment will be limited to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender individuals, and their friends. And, the really nifty thing: You'll learn to dive with other students who will all become club members, so you'll have friends to dive with after you certify.

NCRD has had great success with its annual cycle of offering advanced classes for its members. One of the reasons is that

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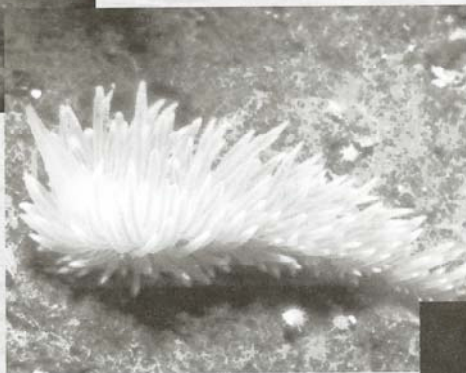
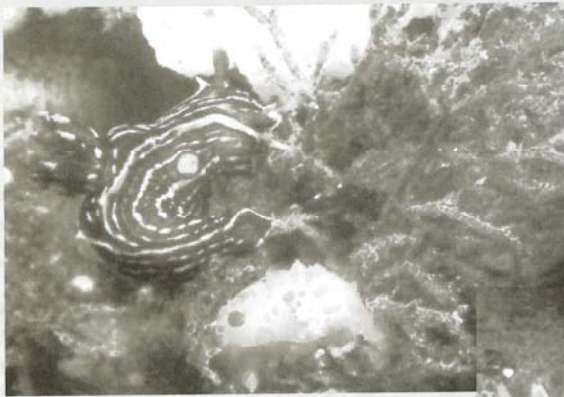


Photo by Jim McDermott



Easter Bunny Sighted on the NCRD April Vision Trip

Can you find the Bunny??





April Vision Trip
Diving, Hiking,
Kayaking, oh my...





Tight Schedule? Can't plan a dive getaway? Need to practice diving skills? Don't Stop Diving! The NCRD can help with more Monterey shore diving opportunities!!

By Paul Duhamel

We're wondering if there is enough member interest to hold a monthly Breakwater Beach Dive - in addition to the monthly Point Lobos Dive. This would give everyone at least two opportunities a month to do day trip shore dives with your NCRD dive buds. We'd try to keep the Point Lobos Beach Dive and the Breakwater Beach Dive at least a couple weeks apart.

We'll have the opportunity to dive various sites depending on group and buddy team interest. Dives like this are perfect for both rusty divers to get active and experienced divers to stay that way. It would also be a great opportunity for some quality social time when we break for lunch somewhere around the Breakwater or take a nice leisurely stroll up Lighthouse or down Cannery Row.

MEETING SPOT: Know that outdoor shower pole at the top of the Breakwater stairs leading to the beach? Let's meet there at 9:00 a.m. to buddy-up and develop dive plans. By 9:15 a.m. we should be suiting-up back

around the cars, so if you're late - look for cool Rainbow Divers.

WEATHER/CONDITIONS: Check the Yahoo weather information for Monterey if you suspect poor weather conditions (e.g., heavy rain, high winds) and the Aquarius Conditions Hot Line (831 657-1020) for dive conditions. A report of visibility at the Breakwater of 10 feet or less will mean that we are canceling the dive. These reports should be checked after 6 p.m. the night before the dive. If things look borderline, call the "Coordinator" listed below the night before.

"COORDINATOR:" We are asking for volunteers to take on a two month commitment to be acting "Coordinator" (this means TWO Saturdays only, one each month). This way, if one of our NCRD buddies shows up alone, she/he will have someone to dive with. A thoughtful phone call or e-mail to the Coordinator from any of those planning to attend would be nice for the Coordinator, so they get a warm and fuzzy feeling that someone might show up to dive with them

too. Dean Papoutsis has generously volunteered to act as coordinator for the first two Breakwater dives to see if we can get these regular club dives off the ground.

DIVE DATES:

Saturday, April 29, 2000
9:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Dean Papoutsis
Questions? (408) 749-1903
caguy@mindspring.com

Saturday, May 20, 2000
9:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Dean Papoutsis
Questions? (408) 749-1903
caguy@mindspring.com

Saturday, June 17th.
Volunteer Coordinator Needed
Saturday, July 22nd.
Volunteer Coordinator Needed

THIS IDEA WILL SELF-DESTRUCT AFTER THE MAY 20 DIVES IF THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INTEREST. SO, IF YOU LIKE BEACH DIVING, PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!!! (SHOW UP A-N-D VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON A COUPLE SATURDAYS.)



Shore diving is a lot of fun, some pictures from our previous club sponsored Breakwater dives.



Lets Go Diving

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

6-7 (Saturday - Sunday) **Open Water Class:** Beginner diver class (limited to 6 non-divers) taught and Divemastered by Members of NCRD, to be held at Diver Dan's in Santa Clara. Class and pool work all day Saturday and Sunday, followed by open water dives in Monterey on the 13th and 14th (Saturday and Sunday). At press time, the class was full. Contact Will de Soria, at Willds@worldnet.att.net or at 415 864-7775 to check on openings and for information on other classes. See Will's article in this month's newsletter.

9 (Tuesday) **Club meeting.** 7:00 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church. (Church and Market Street, San Francisco).

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) **Grrl Dive:** Call or e-mail Kathy Conte for details on dive time and location 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).

JUNE

10-11 (Saturday - Sunday) 10 am to 6 pm
San Jose Pride Parade

17 (Saturday) **Shore Dive: Breakwater Beach Dive.** See the newsletter article for details. Call or e-mail Dino Papoutsis with questions at (408) 749-1903; (caguy@mindspring.com).

24-25 (Saturday - Sunday) 12pm to 6pm on Sat., 12 pm to 7 pm on Sun. San Francisco Pride Parade

JULY

15-16 (Saturday - Sunday) **Open Water Class: Beginner diver class** (limited to 6 non-divers) taught and Divemastered by Members of NCRD, to be held at Diver Dan's in Santa Clara. Class and pool work all day Saturday and Sunday, followed by open water dives in Monterey on the 22nd and 23rd (Saturday and Sunday). Contact Will de Soria, at Willds@worldnet.att.net or at 415 864-7775 for costs or other information. See Will's article in this month's newsletter.

NCRD Full Charter of the Cypress Point May 13th

By Paul Duhamel

Spring 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

Our 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).



Classes announced...

Continued from Page 3

word quickly spread about how much fun the classes were. It's easy to have fun when all your classmates are fellow Rainbow Divers. And anyway, as Jerry Andrews, the first member-Instructor to offer an Advanced class to the club maintains: "If you're taking a certification class and it isn't fun, something's wrong".

NCRD strives to do everything it can to encourage safe diving, and offering these classes (at significant discounts) to the membership (only) is one of the best ways to ensure Rainbow Divers continue to be safe divers who can also help ensure the safety of others in any emergency.

For more information on these and future classes, contact me, Will de Soria, at Willds@worldnet.att.net or at 415 864-7775.



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