

# THE BUDDY LINE

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

## Cypress Pointe, May Charter

By Peg Stone

I swam as hard as I could, following Frances McCormick towards the anchor line. She paused in her efforts, drifting back past me, to say "Is there a current?" I struggled on, finally grasping the anchor line, and looked over my shoulder, across the swells of the pea-green sea. Frances had lost too much momentum in that tiny pause, and now clung to the swim step at the back of the boat, swept back by the current had unexpectedly encountered. The anchor line hummed and bounced as I hung on. So much for being the first ones off the boat!

The crew of the Cypress Pointe soon strung a cheat line from the anchor line back to the entry point off the side of the boat. Others plunged in and pulled themselves up to me, including Frances, game for a second try. Paul Duhamel and two others headed down before us, and then we descended into the murk on our third dive off the Pointe, to the lush Pinnacle of Tremendous Proportions. Others followed behind us, while some stayed on the boat, sunning and talking.

With a hearty band of 14 NCRD divers (and friends), our first two dives of the May charter had offered decent viz, flat seas, no current or surge, and wonderful underwater wildlife: strawberry anemones coating the rocks, several types of nudibranchs (most notably the dendronotus albus, white with orange-tipped cerrata, engaged in orgies of egg-laying), sea stars and several types of larger anemones, rocoral and hydroids. At Lobos Rocks on our second dive, we had danced with a dozen sea lions, playful young fellows who would rush past us blowing bubbles, turn corkscrews to tempt us to play, and float close to gaze in our faces. When Lisa Newman

tugged at my flipper to get my attention, I first thought I was on the receiving end of some unwanted sea-lion attention!

But on this last dive, we suddenly had surge below, shrinking viz, and quite a current. Frances and I descended into the bull kelp at forty feet, passing by a cute cabezon

right at the anchor line, and headed northwest toward the face of the wall. I prayed we'd find the anchor line on our return: a free ascent in that current would have carried us to Morro Bay!

Under the kelp, lush gardens of anemones, bryozoans, nudibranchs and sponges covered the rocks.

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## Marine Mammals the Focus of June NCRD Club Meeting

by Peg Stone

Ever wondered why sea lions blow bubbles at you while you're diving with them? Want to know more about pinnipeds and other marine mammals, who "are important sentinels of ocean health?" Want the latest update on the otter virus that has been threatening the species? Come join us at the club meeting on Tuesday, June 13, at the St. Francis Church on Church Street, near Market. Bettina Warner and Marianne Johnson, volunteers with the Marine Mammal Center will be giving a slide presentation, answering questions, and showing us some pelts and skulls of various marine mammals. The Marine Mammal Center rescues over 800 marine mammals a year, runs an active education campaign about these animals, and operates volunteer and adopt-a-seal programs. This

will be a fascinating presentation that will not only share with you the wonders of our sea-going relatives, but will inform you on what you can do to help ensure the survival and health of these wonderful furry ocean denizens along the California coast. Please join us!



June 13, 2000  
Tuesday

7:00 PM

St. Francis  
Church

San Francisco  
Golden Gate Park

Club Meeting





## DFL Raises \$5,060 for AIDS Support Group

By Peg Stone

**E**very year, NCRD members participate in Diving for Life, a nonprofit association of gay dive clubs that annually organizes a GLBT dive jamboree at some wonderful warm-water spot. And because of our participation, some of the funds raised by DFL are directed to a charity of our choice.

Last year, the club voted at the July meeting to select the Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group as recipient of the Year 2000 funds. At the June meeting, we will present the donation: \$5,060, to a representative of the AIDS Support Group.

NCRD is proud to be able to contribute to the social/medical needs of the community through our participation in DFL. We have given to such groups as Breast Cancer Action and the Women's Cancer Resource Center, as well as AIDS groups, in the past.

In July, we will be selecting a new charity to be the beneficiary of Year 2001 DFL funds. Please think of nominating your favorite charity as a recipient of this valuable donation.

If you have a possible nominee, please call the Treasurer, Peg Stone, at (510) 547-8215, or email her at [pstone@csgadvisors.com](mailto:pstone@csgadvisors.com), to find out what information is needed.

Be a part of this process, come to the July meeting to vote on how to direct next year's DFL funds!



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## May Cypress Pointe Charter

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We wandered along the wall, exploring crevices, until Frances signaled that she was down to 1,000 pounds. As we turned to retrace our path, the current caught us and lifted us quickly back to the anchor line. I kept a close eye on my compass and my depth. Then I caught the welcome sight of heavy metal links snuggled down in the kelp carpet. Right on target!

We fluttered like flags as we ascended slowly up the line, and spent our safety stop with Paul watching the plankton bloom speed by and silently wondering exactly what low degree the temperature of the water had hit. As we rose to the surface, one by one we released our holds on the anchor line and soared back effortlessly to the swim step, grabbing hold as it began to pass by. We hauled ourselves, weary and satisfied, out onto the boat, grinning from ear to ear.

The captain and crew laughed at our enthusiasm for the murky dive into the current and surge, but it was adventurous, beautiful, and all-together exhilarating. Sign me up for the next charter! I can't wait!



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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.

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



## More NCRD Breakwater Dives June 17th

by Rayne MacGeorge

**R**ayne MacGeorge, intrepid British Columbia diver, has volunteered to lead next month's club dives at the Breakwater for a day of fun on Saturday, June 17th. Meet at the outdoor shower pole at the top of the Breakwater stairs leading to the beach at 8:00 a.m. to buddy-up and develop dive plans.

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 Rayne the night before at (408) 260-0603.



NCRD Class at Breakwater

## NCRD Dives Lover's Point June 17th

by Paul Duhamel

**T**ired of the Breakwater or Pt. Lobos? Looking for a bit more excitement and adventure from a shore dive? Ready to test your navigation skills in a new dive spot? Well, here's a chance to do just that in the company of fellow Rainbow divers! In an effort to bring you new and interesting diving opportunities, we are organizing a club shore dive to a spot which NCRD has never before done as an organized activity (at least not in four years that I've been with the club).

Lover's Point is a well-known dive spot located on Ocean View Boulevard in Pacific Grove, along the coast just South of Monterey. Lover's Point offers dive spots on both the East and

Continued Page 4



Diving & Events Calendar



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

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

**17** (Saturday) Shore Dive: Breakwater Beach More club-organized shore dives at the breakwater. See article on this page for details

**18** (Sunday) Medic First Aid/CPR Class: (a prerequisite for Rescue Certification), taught by NCRD member Sharron Zoyhowski, in San Francisco at Will's house. An 8 hour class designed to teach you what to do (& not to do) in a medical emergency. Be the best dive buddy you can be. Contact Sharron (925) 458-4995 for information & contact Will de Soria to register for this course. Tuition & all materials: \$80.00

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

**5,12 & 15** (Wed., Wed. & Saturday) NITROX: Specialty Class, taught by Rainbow Diver Kim Van der Walker. Classrooms (2 Wednesdays 6:30-9:30) in San Francisco, certifying dives off our chartered Cypress Point in Monterey on Saturday. Cost is \$144. (roughly a 20% discount over retail) includes tuition, text, other materials & PADI registration, but not tank rentals or boat charter. Contact Kim with questions (415) 929-2960 and Will de Soria (415) 864-7775 to sign up.

**8** (Saturday) Pt. Lobos Shore Dive: More club organized shore dives at Pt. Lobos. \$5.00 covers reservations, bottled water & a day of easy entry shore diving at Whalers Cove. Call (415) 396-1941 or E-mail (RamsesRa@aol.com) Paul Duhamel to reserve your dive slot.

**15** (Saturday) Boat Dive: Cypress Point NCRD charter of the Cypress Point! 7:00am departure from the Municipal Pier in Monterey for 3 tank dives. Includes breakfast bagels & a full lunch at a tariff of \$80. Send checks to Paul Duhamel, 1850 Sacramento St., #502, SF, CA 94109. Call or E-mail Paul with questions at (415) 673-6146 - RamsesRa@aol.com

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

**28, 29 & 30** (Friday evening, all day Saturday & Sunday) Women's Open Water Class: A beginning dive class taught by women for women, at Pinnacles in Novato. Class & pool work 7/29-30 & certifying dives the following weekend in Monterey. For information, call Kim (415) 929-2960 or for information & to sign up for the class call Will de Soria (415) 864-7775.





## Lover's Point Dives

*Continued from page 3*

West sides of the point, with the West side being more exposed to the weather and sea conditions. The East side is more protected behind the point. However, diving the East side of Lover's Point is prohibited from May 1st through September 30th. If weather conditions are too rough at Lovers, the Breakwater will be our back-up dive location.

The West side of Lovers Point offers sandy and rocky bottoms dotted with massive rocky pinnacles. All kinds of underwater life abound, from invertebrates snubnose sculpins, cabezon, lingcod and monkey face eels to larger marine life, including torpedo rays, bat rays and shovelnose guitarfish. Something for everybody!

To sign up and receive further information on the dive and weather conditions the week prior to the dive, please e-mail Paul Duhamel at: [RamsesRa@aol.com](mailto:RamsesRa@aol.com).



## NEW NCRD LIABILITY WAIVER APPROVED BY PADI

*By Paul Duhamel*

As you know, when you go out on almost any organized dive, including NCRD dives, you are asked to sign a liability waiver and assumption of risk. The NCRD waiver has been in use for several years without revision. As this is a legal document, early this year the NCRD Board undertook a comprehensive review of the club form to determine whether any changes should be made to it. The Board compared the NCRD form with those currently in use by PADI, SSI and several local and other dive operations. Additionally, we reviewed current law on the acceptable scope and limits of liability waivers. In consultation with Pat Fousek of PADI Risk Management, we drafted a revised form which was submitted to PADI legal counsel for review.

As a result of these efforts, I am happy to report that we now have a new form of Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk. Not only that, the new form will be much more "user friendly" to club members. Instead of having to sign a waiver at each club dive, or before each liveaboard or other non-local trip, members will only need to sign a waiver once each year at the time of membership renewal.

Until we have all members on the new form, we will ask you to sign the new form at your next club dive. After that, you won't need to sign another NCRD waiver until your next membership renewal.



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