



Scuba Diving: 

A Sacramento/Sierra Foothills Underwater Photography & Videography Organization	
Established November 1999	Entering Year 6

June 2005	MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY June 22	6:30-9:00PM
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Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Round Table Pizza, Greenback & Madison. Ask for the AIM discount (call 989-1133 to order in advance). New members are always welcome.

Newsletter editor's note: Be sure to look for the new features in this month's and future newsletters. A special thanks to Brennda a new member who has already contributed an article. Thanks to everyone who responded to the newsletter survey, you provided lot's of good input. For those of you who didn't (you know who you are!), there is still time to get them in. If you need another copy of it, just let me know. If you would like to contribute articles to the newsletter, or have suggestions for articles, contact me. Holly Johnson [holjohnson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:holjohnson@ucdavis.edu) 916-379-0920.

### LAST MONTH AT AIM:



Guest speaker, BILL CONAWAY of Livermore, presented a very informative and detailed explanation of "Pixels and Resolution". To grasp a better understanding of these concepts we can begin to understand how the eye perceives and image. The physics and physiology of the eye took us back to early science classes....and many thought "Why do I need to know this?" Well, as photographers getting the eye to see what we want in our images is critical to developing an "eye appealing" image. If you would like more details/review of his key points on *Aesthetic, how we view art; Other factors that effect human*

*perception and interpretation of the information content of images, Resolution is limited by the weakest link in the overall imaging system....well...Lots of fine details and facts. Ask Carol to send a copy of his notes if desired: SEND NOTES...in subject line is fine.*

[carolherrlie@starband.net](mailto:carolherrlie@starband.net) Bill also shared the future of pixels in consumer cameras as being about 12-18M pixels to come the closest to film. Having connections with government cameras, he says cameras with 60, yes sixty, mega pixels are out there...literally "out there as in space". Holger's drooling and requests to get on the waiting list for one were quickly curbed for lack of about \$60,000,000... Plus, who would supply the housing for such a beast! ?

5 MINUTE MEMBER: #1



LES IS MORE!!! First member, Les Trumbull, shared his "Camera in Hand" concept of "Never leave home without it!".. Your camera that is. To keep your camera with you for your everyday activities you can capture many everyday items you come across. At the end of the day a great variety of images can be obtained. He shared images of nature, race cars, buildings, advertising signs, "special hotels in Nevada" (...TMI !! He says he just drove by.), images of his dive buddies and....well Les shared more. Nice variety and great concept to always be prepared for that photo opportunity.

5 MINUTE MEMBER: #2



Bill presented the storey while Barbara assembled the prop for their topic which held a 'flood of information". All members of the Frequent Flooder Club can have at their disposal old equipment which may have had some water damage and has evolved into nothing but a memory and useless stuff. But STOP! Take that old camera and revive it into some usable art form.....suggestion, it wanted to be wet anyway, turn it into a soothing babbling fountain for countertop, vanity or yard art. Someone's old destroyed camera, in this case written very clearly and permanently on it's side as "Fred Knoles" can be placed in a permanent place of honor. Plus.....serves as a reminder to ALWAYS CHECK DOUBLE CHECK THOSE O-Rings.

**This Month's Meeting:**

**Old Business:**

**Digital Projector:** Corinne will present a side-by-side comparison on the models available. AIM will proceed with a selection for the club's own projector.

**Website:** Good news, we now have a real web site for our Aquatic Image Makers. Check it out at: [sacaim.org](http://sacaim.org)

**5 Minute Member:** BILL KNOBLAUCH will be our member presenter. His topic TBA: perhaps a photo tour of Malaysia, Layang Layang???

## Guest Speaker:



JACK MILLARD will present a Power Point Presentation about his AFRICAN SAFARI TRIP this past spring. Jack is a very active member of Dolphin Dive club in Sacramento. He leads many activities sponsored by the club as well as leads very fun day outings...just to have fun and do something different.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Don't Forget AIM'S SPRING TRIP March 12-22, 2006:** 10 days in Atlantis Resort in the Philippines. Arrive 12<sup>th</sup>/depart 22<sup>nd</sup>. Departure dates TBA depending on airlines: Fri 10<sup>th</sup> /Sat 11<sup>th</sup> with arrival the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This trip is limited to 20 participants. AIM members for this trip per club request to keep group small. Sign-up sheet has been started and deposits of \$250 will be collected to hold your spot. Cost will not exceed \$2250\*\* for 10 days including air. If the air costs go up then the total cost may be affected. This is a Special AIM Package and this far out it is too early to promise no increase in airfare. Higher costs should not exceed \$200. Bring a check made payable to: Aquatic Image Makers to hold your spot. Moneys will be sent as a deposit to Atlantis. Additional payments will be held in an escrow account for AIM.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Film Festival on the Mountain:** Date change: Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>.....Sign-up sheets will be at the May meeting to work on various committees needed to make this another great success. Suggestions for this year's event are welcomed: New ideas, keep the same, bar-b-que options, etc. This is our festival and your video and still images are what will make it exciting. Deadline for entries will be July 15<sup>th</sup>...at the latest! In order to have plenty of time to put the program together, requests to have your contribution by the June meeting is being requested. Absolute deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>..... Contact Carol, Sharon, or Holly for sign-up sheets.

## **Members Corner:**

### **JACK'S GOOD IDEA TURNS INTO A CPR-RESCUE ATTEMP**

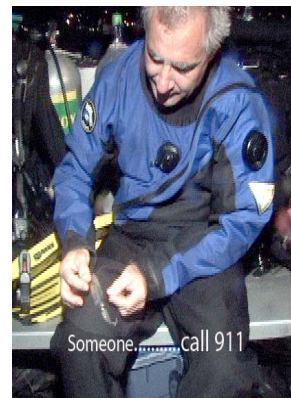
by, Carol Herrlie

I have a bright idea...!!



We all know and appreciate all the work Jack does for Dolphin Dive Club. Always a memorable event lurking in the wings. His 2005 Squid Dive proved that he produces 100% ...WE ALL SAW SQUID! The motoring from dock to dive site (right across from the Monterey Aquarium) was an easy and fairly smooth trip. At near dusk on a beautiful clear night the anchor was set. The DM, a recent college graduate of earlier that day, took a quick dive to the bottom (108feet) and said, "We have squid casings all over so...this could be good!". With that fine report the anchor was set, the bright attractant lights were lowered and Captain Phil said, "The gates are open. But wait!" We have a little current. I could put our a drift line but, humm, it will be very dark and, I could put some glow sticks on it?" Well, the line did go out. No lights. A drop line for decent/assent assist was off the starboard side and was lightless/strobeless and it stopped about 15 feet short of the bottom. Humm...vis....about 10-15 feet.

Squid eggs were found but the females were out goofing off somewhere else so no actual planting of the eggs were observed. On the second dive, Holger and Jack did see squid...was it one or two? Not the most action for this possible high action event. This happens. So how is it that everyone saw squid? One of the two just happened to get a hitch-hiker and the little critter fell on the boat's deck. All divers on deck watched with awe and hope as Kevin Simpson, of Castro Valley, quick to respond with wit and medical response, began CPR. Sorry to say, the victim did not survive. However, symbolic as it may be, it is hopeful that the Squid Dive will once again be revived under the leadership of Jack for 2006. Suggestions for 2006: the club should be prepared to bring a drift line with perhaps a dive flag/light at the end and several luminous objects along the line. Also, perhaps 2-4 drop lines with strobe locators so that all divers could find a line to do a safe ascent. A free ascent from 108' in current was challenging. Everyone did get back to the boat....safely may have been luck as it could have gone differently. Speaking of going differently, I understand that most of the divers came up behind the boat because of the current. Most, except one, came up close enough to the drift line to be reeled in. One, mistaking the bright light of the moon for the boat, came up, a little more passed the line. Well, with some kicking in the right direction, the sound of the young *The Graduate* DM was soon heard by the wayward "experienced diver" ....did she hear him say, "Mrs. Robinson, I've got a line right here for you." A twist on the original version, but none the less, this diver appreciated "the line" and being reeled-in back to the boat. A fun time was had by all..... See a good group of you, squid invited, again next year!



Kevin: "Someone! Call 911 !!"

## A Land Before Time

By Brennda Stolnacke



As our boat approached the tiny island in the wee hours of the morning, I slowly awoke from a Dramamine induced coma. It had taken us over 36 hours to reach our destination, and the sea had been a little rougher than the ferry ride over to Catalina that I'm used to.

Lying in my bunk, I tried to remember where I was, as the engine slowed to a deep rumble, followed by the unmistakable sound

of the anchor dropping. My apprehension and excitement came flooding back to me all at once as the fog in my brain lifted and I remembered that I was arriving at Cocos Island!

Located approximately 300 miles southwest of Costa Rica, Cocos is a smaller island measuring roughly five miles by two miles. Formed by a volcanic upheaval nearly two-and-a-half million years ago, to picture Cocos, one need only to imagine Jurassic Park.

As I stepped onto the topside deck to ready my gear for our first dive, the scenery off the starboard side of the boat took my breath away. Sharp jagged cliffs covered with dense green foliage jutted straight out of the water towards the sky, waterfalls dropped from thousands of feet in the air, while hundreds of birds flying in every direction circled the island in search of their next meal. I halfway expected a T-Rex to come crashing through the trees at any moment! I knew that if the scenery under the water was half as beautiful as what was in front of my eyes, I was in for a phenomenal week of diving! And I was not disappointed!

On our first day of diving, I saw more sharks than I thought I would see in my lifetime, and swimming with these pre-historic animals gave me an appreciation of what life in the sea was like millions of years ago. Even the topography under the water reminded me of ancient times, with dozens of massive volcanic seamounts submerged around the island, some barely visible from the surface.

All in all, we saw silky sharks, galapagos sharks, silvertip sharks, blacktip sharks, hundreds of whitetip sharks, 12 foot long scalloped hammerheads, high schools of tuna, pods of dolphin, eagle rays, mobular rays, and the large pacific mantas. It was pelagic overload! On our last day of diving, we were even fortunate enough to see many of these big guys in action, as we were witness to two bait balls. Being in the water with at least four different species of sharks at the same time, and surrounded by a large school of bait, was an exciting, anxious, adrenaline pumping feeling that I will never forget! Having a visit by the elusive mammoth of the sea, the whale shark, was the only thing that could of made this trip any better. Next time!

Thanks to the positive changes by the Costa Rican Government, many of these endangered species are being sighted more and more frequently. Last year, Cocos boasted a record number of whale shark sightings, and have also seen stable numbers in their hammerhead and silvertip populations. Due to a 13 mile invisible “no hunting or fishing” line around the island, much of the marine life is once again, making a strong appearance. With the new fishing laws that are being strictly enforced, hopefully Cocos Island will stay just as I remember it...a land before time.

