



January 2008 Newsletter

The AIM Christmas party at Glenn and Peni's home was a huge success, with good food, friends and films. The video from the recent adventure to the Socorro Islands and the new group of "storm divers" was previewed. And since the group had just arrived home the day before, there was a lot of "post trip" energy to be endured. But the energy quickly went to choosing and opening presents. There were many items that were snatched up the maximum three times, and some that will return again at next year's party, for sure. Here are some pictures from Knobby.....



TRIP REPORT from Craig Brookey

A Lifelong Dream Comes True

On Nov. 24th, a group of Hearty Divers from the Sacramento area clubs left for the Sea of Cortez and the Socorro Islands. It was to become a “High Seas Adventure, which created a new group called the “Storm Divers.” After a few days with the Whale Sharks and Sea Lions in the Sea of Cortez, we headed south to the three islands of the Socorro Island group. We motored for about 32 hours on smooth seas, and arrived at our first dive site, Roco Partida. (This stands for “Parted Rock”) Several divers encountered White Tip sharks, Silver Tip Sharks, and Hammerheads. The Hammerheads were somewhat elusive. A Whale Shark also made a brief appearance.

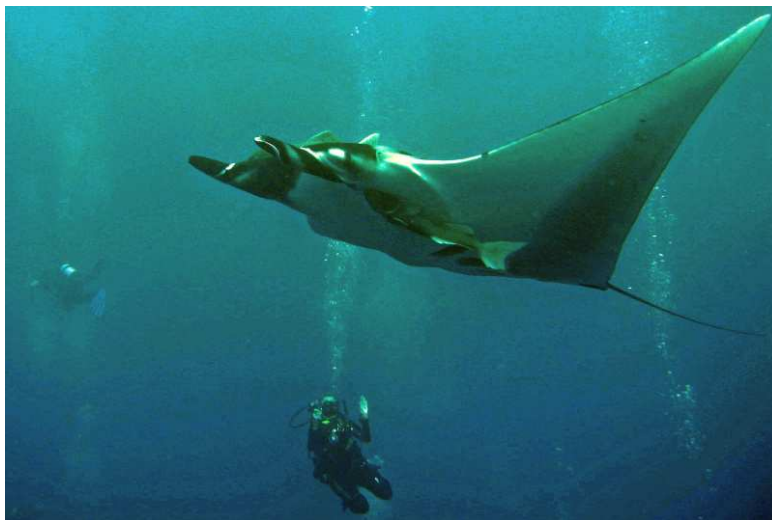
On the second day in the afternoon, we encountered some pretty awesome weather in the form of a “white squall.” It hit in a matter of a few minutes with thunder, lightning, and 60 knot winds. Divers were already in the water, so those of us who sat out the dive were busy filming and holding on to our “stuff.” The crew of the Nautilus scrambled to retrieve all the divers with just about zero visibility due to the heavy rainfall. Everyone made it back without incident.

Next stop was 70 miles south at Socorro Island where we spent three days at numerous dive sights. We were treated to encounters with Moray Eels, Octopus, lots of huge Lobsters and many fish that are only found in the Socorro area including Sharks and Manta Rays.

Our final destination was San Benedicto Island some 40 miles off Socorro. The highlight of that island was a dive sight named “the Boiler” which is a volcanic mound that rises from 140’ to just about 10’ below the surface. This location is famous for encounters with the giant Mantas, and it did not disappoint. For three dives we were treated to at least 5 different Mantas that glided in and out of our bubbles and seemed to enjoy the interaction. What a thrill to see these gentle giants up close.

When you hear claims by dive operations that you will encounter Sea Lions, Sharks, Dolphins, Rays, Whale Sharks, Eels, Octopus, Lobsters all on one trip, one tends to be doubtful. WELL, NOT ON THIS ONE!!!! It was all there, and was a dream trip come true.

Craig (soft lips) Brookey



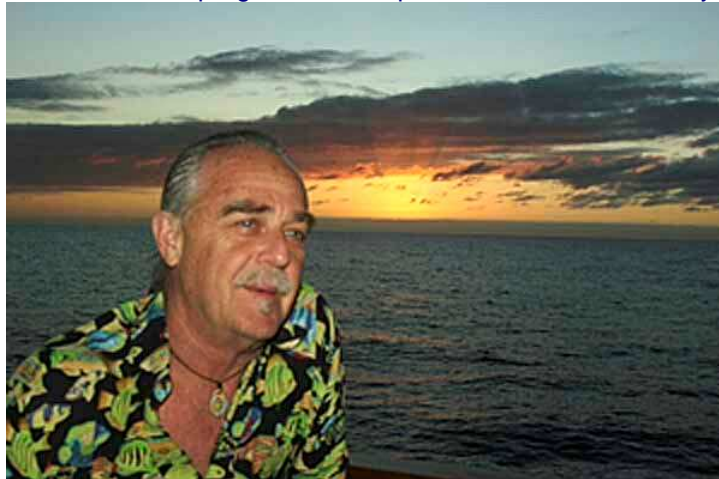
A New Years Message From Carol:

Greetings to All AIM Members: I am looking forward to another exciting year with this group. Some may not know this, so let me share a little history. AIM was established in November 1999.. 8 years ago. Wow ! I must admit the progress of this organization has been wonderfully exciting. To have been instrumental in its establishment has been a real highlight and joy for me. There is a group of "Charter Members" who have remained steadfast through the years...,without them and the enthusiasm of everyone else who has joined, AIM would not be the success it is today. Thank you all for your interest in the wonderful world of underwater and topside photography. We have all seen the progress of our skills as demonstrated many times through the incredible images: stills and video. 2008 will see even more growth and excitement as we continue to share our talents, learn more of the technical aspects of our hobby, share our images in unique and entertaining formats and ...continue to have lots of fun with everyone. Carol Herrlie, the "whatever" leader of the group.

PS: From: The "Whatever" leader of the Group: 8 years is a wonderfully long run as the unelected, let her do it, leader of AIM. I appreciate the support and other "motivations" to not replace me. However, this year we need to have some division of this role. Poorly defined as it may be, Carol needs a break. Anyone interested in stepping up to the plate to conduct the monthly meetings, , coordinate the monthly presentations and other activities will be most welcomed. As leader you would have the support the other very visibly active members: Sharon Bormann Treasurer/Membership, Kathy Moore Secretary that records the details of meetings, Karen Kessel Newsletter, Chuck Bormann the Website, and recently Corinne Fuerst who is instrumental in activating our online "Yahoo Group" plus the diverse talented photographers within AIM. I will bring the plate to the next meeting.....looking forward to someone stepping up to it! Carol

Ano Nuevo and Cambria is this weekend: Jan 18-21st, emails have gone out to all with schedules. If you did not get one, please call Carol 530-622-9124 or email her: carolherrlie@starband.net for details. Lets hope for good weather and lots of elephant seal action: mating, birthing and lots of "wieners"...those babies are so cute! REMINDER: Get those lens ready. Don't forget your tripods!

TRIP REPORT: SOCORRO ISLAND ON THE NAUTILUS EXPLORER: AIM members: Barbara Bloom, Craig Brookey, Art Haseltine, Carol Herrlie, Joe Herrlie, Karen Kessel, Leilani Le Blanc, Karen Manly and loyal AIM supporter Ruth Chofre had incredible memories on this trip 285 miles south of the border...the Cabo San Lucas border that is. Movies, particularly Storm Divers, will be shown again some day ...and lots of still programs will be presented for the February meeting.



Craig's story tells it all ..



THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE WRAP BECOMES A CHRISTMAS TRADITION: A Special Thanks to the AIM Members who joined in the much appreciated Christmas Promise gift wrapping. This is one of those wonderfully feel good activities that everyone should look for during the holidays. Christmas Promise is a non-profit organization that accepts financial donations as well as goods throughout the year to make Christmas happen for hundreds of needed families in the Sacramento area. Everything from clothing, stuffed animals, diapers to bath powders and school supplies. Oh yes and hundreds of bikes! You have to be there to see the amazing coordinated efforts of many volunteers who make these family gift packets happen. Wish lists are checked and double checked to make sure "Santa Letters" are met as close as possible. Volunteers like AIM do all the wrapping. There are others who sort and stack thousands of bags for Christmas Eve distribution. Real Santas in authentic attire personally deliver to the homes. What is very special is when asked: "Who is responsible for bringing us these gifts?" The reply: Santa. Christmas Promise is never mentioned as they are a real Santa to so many needed families.

6TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL AUGUST 16, 2008...IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT IT!. First thing is to mark it in ink on all your calendars... Next: tell your friends to do the same. Then, start thinking about your contribution to the show and display. Get'er Done Early..... Committees will form early: Carol: the festival site coordinator ; Glenn Marshall: displays; Cayle and David: cooking and menu (yes, Cayle...I do do DO appreciate your offer...we will help!) Joe and Tom: Program Need: coordinators for advertising, the calendar competition and ??.
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**DUES ARE DUE ! WIN A FREE YEARS MEMBERSHIPBring your membership dues to the January meeting or send your renewal payment to Sharon BEFORE Wednesday's meeting. If your check is picked your membership is FREE this year. If unable to attend you can still win if you get your renewal payment in on time. If you want to join go on line www.sacaim.org and complete the New Member Application form.... If you have had a change of address, email or phone contact Sharon:
SharonBormann@yahoo.com**

A closing note from the Newsletter Editor:

As 2008 begins, and I start filling in all the important upcoming events in my new AIM calendar, I quickly become dazed and confused. Is anyone else out there craving for a joint calendar with all three diving groups' events on it?? I would certainly be happy to try and coordinate such a thing.....unless I am alone in this dilemma!!

At any rate, I am looking forward to the year ahead and all the photo ops that it brings!

See you all at the meeting on the 23rd.

Cheers, Karen