



March, 2006
<http://www.sacaaim.org>

March meeting:

CANCELED

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 19

Upcoming Events:

- April 19th, next meeting
- July 15, 2006– AIM Film Festival on the Mountain
- Bonaire 2007, April 26th-May 6th

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>Trip Report: Poor Knights Island By Ian Kennedy</i> | 2 |
| <i>News from the ocean</i> | 3 |
| <i>Who am I?</i> | 3 |
| <i>Equipment for Sale</i> | 3 |
| <i>Members Bio: Charles and Sharon Bormann</i> | 4-5 |
| <i>Member's Photo Album</i> | 5 |

This Month at AIM

This month's meeting has been canceled due to a large number of members being gone on trips. The good news is that we should have a large number of trip reports in the newsletter, and

presentations at meetings!

Look forward to next month, and Karen as our 5 minute member, and updates on a possible group outing to IMAX to see the new Deep Sea 3-D movie.

Our meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM (social hour at 6:30) the 4th Wednesday of the month at RoundTable Pizza, on Madison and Greenback. New Members and guests are always welcome. Call 989-1133 to order in advance. Don't forget to ask for the AIM discount.

Joe will also be giving a Pro Show gold presentation.

Last Month at AIM

If you missed last month's meeting here is a recap!

Tate and Renee Viehmann, newly returning members, were our five minute person, and shared with us photos, for us to get to know them. We also dis-

cussed setting up a 'pool day' to practice our under water photography skills without having to go somewhere. Look for more information on that coming up. Karen showed a video of the Philippines to show what our members could expect while there. It

was her first video editing experience, and it was great!

A date for the Spring 2007 trip to Bonaire was set– mark your calendars for April 26th– May 6th! Deposits will be taken, starting at the May meeting.

Newsletter Bits

Last month's meeting also led to discussion of the newsletter. There is desire for a section on Photoshop. If you have any Photoshop skills that you would like to share with the group, please write up a little article, and include what version you use. Or if you have a photo you've touched up with Photo-

shop, we would like to see a before and after, and know how you did it!

You should also have received a 'member bio' questioner. Please fill this out and return to me. This is for a feature in the newsletter, that will help us get to know each other. If you have inadvertently deleted it, let me know, and I'll resend it to you.

Trip Report: Poor Knights Island

By Ian Kennedy

The Poor Knights Islands lie about 1 hour by boat off the northeastern coast of New Zealand. I dove with Dive Tutukaka that operates out of the harbor at Tutukaka, about 2 to 3 hours drive north of Auckland.



This is a very professionally run operation. A two tank dive costs NZ\$145 and they provide a packed lunch for another NZ\$10 - otherwise, you get only soup, or tea and coffee. The boats are comfortable and well-equipped. Appropriate attention is given to safety. I needed a buddy and the crew did an excellent job of interviewing all the divers and finding suitable buddies. The crew also did a fine job of providing

information about the local flora and fauna on the islands, and the history of the indigenous people which includes a rather tragic story of a Maori war and massacre. The islands get their name from one of two sources: their shape when seen from a distance, or from Captain Cook who was eating his poor knights pudding as they sailed by. At Christmas time the local trees are in blossom and may have appeared like the sauce on top the good captain's pudding.

The islands offer a range of topographies that were formed by the volcanic crater. It is possible to dive in an enormous sea cavern, large enough to accommodate the dive boat, under arches and so on. The islands were lauded years ago (one of the top ten dive sites according to Cousteau the son) for their mix of tropical and temperate water fish. The tropical fish arrive via the east Australian current that swings across the Tasman sea to NZ. Some tropical fish were apparent but not in the magnitude to elicit a similar enthusiasm as Cous-



teau. I saw several short and long tailed rays. Wrasses were common and the northern scorpionfish was seen a few times. On my first dive I saw quite a few very nice nudibranchs but none on my second day of diving. Several moray eels were



also spotted.

The bottom was generally rocky with a covering in many parts of short kelp, not like the giant kelp of California. Coverage with anemones etc was only apparent in some rather restricted areas. The water visibility was about 60 feet and the temperature at the bottom was about 69F. Currents were not a problem.

Look next month for Ian's trip report on Southwest Rocks!



News From the Ocean

- A new species of crustacean was found by a diving expedition led by Robert Vrijenhoek of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. It was found last year at a site 900 miles south of Easer Island, and was 7,540 feet deep. The creature resembles a furry lobster, and is blind. For the whole story and a picture: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11718069/>
- A new painkiller is derived from the stinging compound of a marine snail-from the genus *Conus*. This creature uses poison tipped mouthparts to capture prey. Information and video of this can be found at: biology.burke.washington.edu/conus

If you find a news article that might be of interest to the club, send it and a link to Holly.

Who Am I?



Last month's winner was Charles Bormann, with the correct guess of a Giant Spined Seastar (see photo at left). A very close second was Sharon (they say they didn't discuss it!).

Who am I will return next month.

If you have a picture that could be used, for 'who am I,' please email it to Holly.

Equipment For Sale

- Wet Suit for sale Seaquest Size 12 'farmer john' 7 mm. \$75/OBO (cat extra!) Call or email Holly 916-379-0920 or holjohnson@ucdavis.edu



Member Bio: Chuck and Sharon Bormann

Charter members of AIM



We began diving and using cameras underwater at different times in our lives. The following provides a short synopsis of our respective entries into the underwater world.

Chuck

In 1959 there was no need for a certification to begin SCUBA (Self Contained Under Water Breathing Apparatus) diving. Basically, the only requirement to dive was to find a store that sold the SCUBA equipment and jump into the water. That is basically how Chuck began to learn of the underwater world. His diving was primarily confined to the fresh waters of the Northeast until he entered the Air Force and met Sharon. This life change resulted in Chuck putting his diving aside for a number of years especially when a few other events crept into his life, such as developing a career flying with the US Air Force, moving across our beautiful country and the world to such garden spots as New Mexico, Arizona, Thailand, and England, and spending what precious free time was available supporting our sons' sports activities. Besides, Sharon doubted his sanity when it came to diving, reasoning who would purposefully put on survival gear and leave a perfectly good atmosphere to go underwater?

Twenty plus years passed Chuck retired from active military duty in Sacramento, California, and became a California resident. It then finally dawned on him that some of the greatest SCUBA diving in the world was only about 100 miles away in Monterey and along the West Coast of California. In 1994

Chuck set out again to venture under the seas, this time as a PADI certified diver. He learned of all the advances in SCUBA equipment and also found this ocean diving was a world apart from the fresh water diving in his youth. It fired up a whole new enthusiasm and led to taking a camera along to help identify all those "creatures" he now found in abundance. His first warm water dive was on a trip to Cozumel, Mexico. Therein enters Sharon and her introduction to SCUBA.

Sharon

Sharon originally had quite an aversion to the concept of slipping away from the comforting confines of the natural atmosphere. As indicated above, she told Chuck more than once that he was nuts for blowing bubbles underwater. Well, that trip to Cozumel changed everything. Sharon elected to take a Resort SCUBA class after a few days of Chuck disappearing under the ocean's surface. Chuck later stated, "We have created a monster." Not only did she return from Cozumel to certify in Monterey in August of 1995, but very soon after decided that traveling to various spots around the globe was a neat way indeed to see more of the underwater world and to fill the void left when children grow up and leave the nest! Hence, Chuck was no longer confined to his back yard, consisting of the California coast, but now would venture to all parts of the globe. For more on our dive destinations, you may want to visit our web site at

www.csproductions.org and click on "[Photography](#)."

Chuck & Sharon

As we became more entranced with the underwater world, we both desired to record for ourselves the creatures and beauty beneath our oceans and share those adventures with our friends and fellow club members. Chuck progressed from a small Ikelite housing that captured the underwater life through the use of a simple disposable camera, to a self-contained Sea & Sea 35mm camera expressly designed for underwater photography. Sharon advanced to a more sophisticated 35mm camera, and a couple of upgrades later, she talked Chuck into finally arriving at the cutting edge ~ the world of digital photography and imaging subjects with a high mega-pixel camera. Currently, Chuck dives with a Nikon D-100 and Sharon with a Nikon 8700. Several years ago, while contemplating how best to share and showcase our images, Charles decided to learn HTML, the web's hypertext mark up language, and then web site design, combining HTML with Dreamweaver, a web design program. Just last year, Charles created and consistently updates our personal website, www.csproductions.org as well as the site for AIM, www.sacaim.org. Sharon created a unique line of note cards with several of her images and was successful enough with initial sales to cover costs of the first printing. By designing and formatting the AIM club calendar each year, Sharon keeps her PhotoShop and Publisher skills current. We

Members Bio: Continued

both create PowerPoint presentations with our images from each destination and Charles typically makes a small "hard copy" album. Sharon recently decided to convert her PowerPoint presentations to PDF ~ a great format to share via the e-mail with friends! The PDF format is easily loaded onto websites, as well! We both look forward to learning other presenta-

tion programs, such as Pro Show Gold, and possibly venturing into video imaging and editing at some point in the near future.

By combining our love of diving with the challenge and satisfaction of photography, we have managed to fill many hours of our increasing free time since retiring in 2003.

With our active participation in AIM, we look forward to meeting

new people who share our interests of diving/photography and travel, maintaining long-time friendships and sharing our skills and knowledge with others.

Photo courtesy of Joe Wysocki aboard The Conception in the Channel Islands

Members Photo Album

Do you have a photo you would like to share with fellow cub members? Send it in, and it will go right here!