



## MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

### Last Month at AIM ~

Since many of the AIM members were in Thailand, the meeting was not heavily attended. The 10 minute presenter was **Carl Sweet** with his video presentation put together from last year's trip to Bonaire. It's too bad so many of us missed it but maybe we'll get a chance to see it at the film festival. I have called around to see what else happened, but no one could tell me.....oh well.

A reminder from Craig Brookey: The board meeting is on June 5th at Barbara and Bill's home in Elk Grove. (And we're back there again on the 7th for the camera class!!)

### NOTES ON THE THAILAND TRIP BY KAREN MANLY

**A few of us from AIM and Seahorses took off on an adventure in Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma). Kathy and Tom Moore, Dennis Wade, Joe Herrlie, Pam Wade and her friend Anne from Arkansas all left for a few days in Cambodia where they caught up with MargieTomenko. Cambodia was a hit and highly recommended by all. Carol Herrlie, Karen Manly, Sandy and Paul Bisbee, Barbara Bloom and Bill Windt caught up with the first group in Phuket, Thailand on April 19th. What an adventure that was with the "girlie boys" and the wild night life in Patong Beach. Dennis and Joe used me as their escort so the "girlie boys" left them alone (they were scared). The sea kayaking was fun but a little crowded in the caves as this is a popular tourist attraction. We all got lots of sun, saw walking fish, bats, and wild monkeys. We also did the normal stuff like ride elephants and water buffalo, and visit the rubber trees. After a few days in Patong beach we were ready for diving. We were picked up by a bus and shuttled to the Ocean Rover, where we were treated to luxury with big rooms, big**

windows, and an espresso machine 24/7, a big salon, a great dive deck and outside lounge area. These were just a few of the amenities offered. Our first dive days were in the Similan Islands in the Andaman Sea. The visibility wasn't great but we saw lots of sea-horses (not each other), leopard sharks and cuttle fish. We moved through the Andaman Sea into Burma where the authorities kept our passports. We had some great dives in Burma but battled the current and surge almost every dive. We burned lots of calories which was a good thing since we all ate A LOT of food. Most of us did every dive every day and only sat out a few times. We had five dives a day scheduled on most days. Move over Margie, Dennis and Pam are now #1, as they did every dive. Dennis says Pam is #1 because she had more bottom time (what a great brother Dennis is). Pam has gills for those who don't know her. She uses no air. We celebrated Tom and Kathy's 28th anniversary and Joe's 900th dive. We left Burma before the typhoon hit and did a few more dives in Thailand before leaving the Ocean Rover. Our next stop was Bangkok where we met up with David and Eileen Whiteside. We toured the Palace, the temples, the coconut farm and the wood carving school. We had a great time on the "James Bond" boats traveling to the floating market through the canals of Bangkok. We finished up our trip by celebrating my birthday at the blue elephant. Half of us went home while the rest of the group headed north and then on to Cambodia. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Carol for putting this all together.

**Happy Diving**  
**Karen Manly (the short one)**

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

***GENERAL MEETING***

***MAY 28***

***ROUNDTABLE PIZZA***

***7 PM***

TIME IS GETTING CLOSER FOR THE FILM FESTIVAL, SO GET TO WORK ON YOUR PICTURES AND VIDEOS!

## TRIP REPORT FROM BARBARA LEARY

A Fiji Trip on the Nai'a with Stan Waterman  
By Barbara Leary

I had the fortune to take a trip to Fiji with Sharon and Charles Bormann, spending an unforgettable week on my first live aboard, guest hosted by Stan Waterman.

The trip to Fiji was uneventful though I will have to say that Air Pacific has some of the tightest seating in economy class that I have ever encountered!

We were greeted upon our arrival on the Nai'a by a lovely, well versed Divemaster, Sonia Goggel, the videographer for the trip Mike Boom, a Bay Area resident, Stan, and a very friendly crew. Once our bags (with the exception of Sharon's which arrived a couple of days later-she was outfitted by the crew) were delivered to our cabins, we headed out for our first dive-"not too exciting" as Stan would say, but quite lovely for a first dip into the warm waters. The water temps ranged between 82 and 84 degrees by my computer.

Each day we headed to a different spot- two skiff with 6 divers on each traded sites between the morning and afternoon dives; we had 4 dives per day, with a couple of days featuring a 5<sup>th</sup> night dive. We traveled amongst the various islands to areas including Bligh Water, Wakaya, Makogai, and the Namena Marine Reserve. We discovered ghost and striped pipefish, many multicolored and differently shaped nudibranchs, white tipped and grey sharks, schools of barracuda, sweetlips, reeftops teeming with anthius, incredibly colored soft and hard corals, leaf scorpionfish and many varieties of butterflyfish only to name a few! The currents were for the most part very mild and visibility ranging between 50 and 80 feet by my guesstimation.

We were treated to delicious meals-the menu was set out at the beginning of the day; we signed up for our choices for a formal breakfast, lunch, dinner; a self serve mini-breakfast was laid out before the first dive. I can't recall a single meal that was not completely devoured by the guests, with frequent comments about the excellent and diverse tastes that were offered.

Not having any previous knowledge of Stan and his adventures I was very pleasantly surprised to find him the most erudite story teller that I have ever encountered. He provided his "bijou" entertainment once to twice daily, taking us through his life's journey with underwater filmmaking since the 1950's. I cannot encourage anyone strongly enough to take a trip with Stan if you can work it into your plans!

In conclusion, a trip to Fiji with a stay on the Nai'a can't be beaten! On the count of three...1-2-3 roll back into the water!

You can visit the website where the Divemaster's Diary chronicles our trip, complete with pictures at [http://www.naia.com.fj/diary/dd\\_080412.html](http://www.naia.com.fj/diary/dd_080412.html)

# The Northern California Underwater Photographic Society

BEST of SHOW - Ethan Daniels



FILM/MACRO - Mark Krag



FILM WA - Chuck Tribolet



MACRO - Brad Brown



HUMOR - Jody Elliot



**cordially invites one and all to its**

## **27th Annual California Beach Dive Photo Competition May 31 & June 1, 2008**

**Visit**

**to download your entry form and rules for competition**

[www.ncups.org](http://www.ncups.org)

*(The entry fee is \$75.00 if paid through PayPal or postmarked on or before May 16, 2008, \$90.00 cash or check thereafter. Registration on Saturday is allowed until 9am. The entry fee includes a T-shirt, Saturday night dinner & show, and admission to Sunday seminar and a chance to win a door prize at the Sunday awards ceremony)*

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **Saturday, May 31, 2008**

- 7:30am-9:00am: Registration at Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Blvd., Monterey, CA
- 7:30am-4:00pm: Dive and shoot images
- 3:00pm-4:00pm: Film drop off at Backscatter, 225 Cannery Row, Monterey. 4:00pm film is taken for developing. **Film dropped off after 4:00pm will not be processed or judged.**
- 3:00pm-5:00pm: Digital images submitted at Backscatter, 225 Cannery Row, Monterey. Bring your own laptop to review images. **Backscatter closes at 5:00pm, so all images must be submitted by 5:00pm.**
- 5:45pm-6:45pm: Cocktail hour at Carmel Women's Club, SW corner of 9th & San Carlos, **Carmel**, across from the Sunset Center
- 6:45pm-9:00pm: Dinner & Presentation at Carmel Women's Club, SW corner of 9th & San Carlos, **Carmel**, across from the Sunset Center

#### **Sunday, June 1, 2008**

- 7:30am-8:30am: Slide selection at Monterey Institute of International Studies McCone Building, 499 Pierce Street, Room M-238 in the lobby, **Monterey**
- 8:30am-2:00pm: Judging of images
- 9:00am-12:00pm: Underwater Photography Seminar at Monterey Institute of International Studies Irving Auditorium in the McCone Building, 499 Pierce Street, **Monterey**
- 3:00pm-5:00pm: Winners Show and Prize Selection at Monterey Institute of International Studies Irving Auditorium in the McCone Building, 499 Pierce Street, **Monterey**

*The Northern California Underwater Photographic Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization formed to promote interest in underwater photography.*