



### Last Month at AIM

NOVEMBER 07

If you weren't able to attend the October meeting; here's what you missed;

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Xmas Party**  
Dec 8th at  
Peni and  
Glenn's
- **Ana Nuevo**  
January 18=21
- **Sea Ranch**  
Story next issue

#### New Business:

- Treasurer's report - \$1452.77
- **Karen K** covered newsletter information. Articles are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- A committee will be formed in January 2008 to begin the AIM Film Festival's planning
- **Sharon Bormann** has some beautiful AIM calendars at a bargain price of \$17.00
- Fish Eye Scuba Shop Grand Opening was the same night as the October AIM meeting. **Joe** stopped by and won an Open Water Cert Class

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#### Old Business:

- The suggestion was made to enhance our selection of photos on the AIM website at <http://www.sacaim.org/>. Carol challenged each AIM member to send at least 10 photos for posting to our webmaster, Chuck Bormann. His email address is [csbormann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csbormann@sbcglobal.net) in case you haven't sent yours....

#### 10 minute Person:

- **Glen** showed "Fall Colors"

#### Entertainment:

- **Renee** – "Sharing Your Photos via Internet"
- **Dates for your calendar:**
  - **November 28** is next meeting (don't be fooled by the 2007 AIM calendar)
  - AIM Christmas Party, December 8 at **Glen & Peni's**; arrive around 5:30, dinner around 7:30. Food sign-up at Nov. meeting
  - January 19 - 21, 2008 – Ano Nuevo/Cambria trip
  - January AIM meeting will feature Tom Pendrik, sea urchin diver

#### Dive or Trip Reports:

- **Ken Martin** presented slides from Wyoming, Lilly Lake and Tahoe area fall colors that looked very similar.

Last month at AIM continued -

- **Barbara Bloom** managed to present a video while she was out-of-town entitled "Cutting Up".
- **Karen K.** shared her PADI dive master video, AKA "Mr. Fuzzy Gets Wet". (I should mention that the prize was awarded to someone else! Boo Hoo)

## **Ano Nuevo and Cambria Club Event January 18-21, 2008**

Elephant Seals: mating, birthing and just being themselves...

Paparazzo and nature lovers line up for a beautiful skeptical of nature every year at this time.. Reservations for the orientation tour at the Ano Nuevo State Park will be made in mid November for 20 (+??) \*\* members at 10am. After a brief orientation we will take the walking tour to the beach. Gentle walk on well marked yet sometimes slippery trails. Lunch will follow in the park between 12 and 2pm. Those interested in going further south we will caravan down the coast, Hwy 1, to Cambria. The Sacramento Group will be joined by a group from Monterey, MPUP, who are going to the Cambria area only. Great time to mix with other photo and nature enthusiasts.

Arrangements for camping or hotels will be confirmed at the November meeting...mark dates on your calendars now.... Some will be camping/hoteling it Friday, Saturday and possibly Sunday. Options to tour Hearst Castle can be arranged. Some website references (there are many) : [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1115](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1115) ; [www.cambriachamber.org/elephant-seals.php](http://www.cambriachamber.org/elephant-seals.php) ; [www.elephantseal.org](http://www.elephantseal.org) ; <http://gocalifornia.about.com/cs/>

Contact: Carol Herrlie, Group Leader for the Seahorses, AIM and Dolphin Divers of Sacramento. A Group from Monterey (MPUP), Castro Valley (Aqua Tutus) and Livermore (VDM) will be joining. This information should be available on your club's website....or visit: [www.sacaim.com](http://www.sacaim.com)

### **Pt Lobos as experienced by Chuck Bormann.....**

The Aquatic Image Makers (AIM) trip to Point Lobos, California on November 3, 2007 might best be described as outstanding, and the weather was the best we have experienced in the Monterey area in years. It is the first trip Sharon and I have made with the club in some time and upon reviewing my log books, I found it is the first trip to Point Lobos since July 27, 1997. Yes folks, that was over ten years ago. Even I was a bit stunned to realize how long an interval it had been.

Sharon and I began our journey on Friday afternoon, It took us all of one hour and fifteen minutes to slip the surly bonds of air space from Placerville to Monterey and the weather was beautiful, nary a bump in the sky. After a nice meal and checking the area over, we turned in early to rest up for the events of the following day.

Departing early Saturday morning, we picked up tanks at Breakwater and viewed the sun rising over Monterey Bay. There is always a special atmosphere generated as one listens to the sounds of sailing vessels, surf, and the sea animals rustling in the water as the sun begins its sojourn into the beginning of another day. Perhaps, this was an omen to the pleasant day before us.

Prior to proceeding to Point Lobos, most of our group gathered for breakfast at the Black Bear Diner in Carmel. Following a fine meal, we joined the line up to await entry into the park. It was rather like AIM was there

to take over the place, which in fact, appeared to be the case. Fortunately, Holly was well in charge and kept the rangers from becoming unruly. Every one setup their dive stations in a very neat and orderly fashion. You'd think some of them may have done this before. Of course, my bride has certified herself as a designated "warm water woos," electing to forego getting her toes wet in such frigid waters. She now prefers to enjoy everyone's company, rather than get wet in water below 80 degrees F.

Dive buddies for my first dive included the Moose family, Tom, Kathy, and Rachael. They all proved to be very patient waiting for this old man to finally figure out how to enter the water in his dry suit and eventually make his way through the water from a shore entry. Naturally, my primary camera's strobe light would not function, so out came old faithful, the Nikon Cool pix 5000. It may be dated, and the time delay just short of forever, but it does normally work like a charm. I hate to think of the number of dive trips that this spare camera has saved.

Thrashing my way through the kelp, and grossly over-weighted, I found the surge action within Whalers Cove was not helping my transition through that kelp. It soon appeared to me that my right foot was ever so much freer than my left. Yep, the fin was no longer attached. Woops! Thank goodness Tom was there to the rescue, assisting me to re-attached the wayward fin. Kelp was everywhere. One draw back with using an older camera is it takes some getting used to, remembering how it is supposed to work. That took about half the dive. The other obstacle was getting caught up in all the kelp. The strobe arm was like a magnetic, attracting every strand of kelp in the area. The kelp even liked my fins, perhaps even better than the camera. The second dive was almost as much fun as the first, especially after attempting rid to myself of some of the excess weight I was carrying earlier. This time Kathy and Rachael stayed on land and Tom picked up two old farts to look after – Paul Bisbee and myself. Figuring I must be the slow one, Tom had me take the lead to begin working our way through the kelp again and out to deeper water. Apparently without the extra weight, I was able to boogy a little faster than on the first dive. Stopping after a few minutes of dodging the kelp, a turn was made to check on my "dive buddies." Alas, they were no where to be found. After hanging out for a few minutes, a surface search was made and there they were checking the scenery above sea level. Re-grouping, Tom put me in lead again. Back down we went through the kelp, on to view the wonders of the world below. Did I stop to see my buddies in close trail behind me? Certainly. Turning 180 degrees, I found the kelp bed still in existence behind me, lot's of starfish and other little creatures. Guess who was not there? Yea, I'm sure Tom and Paul had pre-arranged a solo dive would be in my best interest. Anyway, from that point forward it was a Bill Levine dive, made without the encumbrance of dealing with other divers. Just me and my camera. Heck, when you come to think of it, it was like diving with my usual dive buddy. Sharon starts off with me, and then finds a more accommodating group to finish the dive. I'm kind of use to it, but is there a uniform message not being interpreted by me?

Completion of any dive must end with exiting the water. Oh my, that last exit taught he what a beached whale must feel like. First, the camera attachment would not unclip form my BCD. Then, the fins held on to my dry suit boots with the force of a strong suction device. Tom was not there this time. Thank goodness Joe Herrlie was.

Thanks Joe, Tom – and everyone that made this great trip. Special thanks to Holly for putting it all together



What do AIM divers do when they get hungry during a dive?????Eeeewwww

Photographer Joe Herrle was safely out of reach!



## AIM & SEA HORSE CLUB MEMBERS JOIN CASTRO VALLEY'S, AQUA TUTUS, TO FIJI ON THE NAI'A

Over 1 year ago, Aqua Tutus member, Arnie Warshawsky "in the Hawaiian branch of the Tooters", decided to pull a group together to dive the colorful waters of Fiji on the elegant dive yacht, The Nai'a. He recruited the help of club member Carol Herrlie of Pathways to Adventure Travel to put the details together. After months of many emails and notes back and forth a fun group of 17 made it to the islands. From Nov 3-13<sup>th</sup> we all enjoyed spacious cabins, gourmet dining and the beautiful colors and fishes of the rich reefs...and the warm Fijian hospitality. Music. Kava. Smiles. Diving...Awe !

The group arrived in Nadi on the island of Viti Levu. Early on the am of NOV 3<sup>rd</sup> we took a short bus ride to The Nai'a, docked just a little north of Nadi in Lautoka. We boarded the 120ft motor sailing yacht and were doing our first dive within a couple hours. Dive schedule included 4 day dives and an optional night dive. Dennis would even squeeze another one in between ! Our travels took us north and east to the rich reef system between the islands of Vita Levu and Vanua Levu. The warm 86 degree water with mostly 60-100 ft vis was our playground for 10 days. Our last day in Nadi was quite the adventure: Take 50 Fijian Cents, a local bus, a goofy dozen of us, and set out to find what was happening in the unknown Nadi town, in a down pour of rain, and end up a Chefs, an elegant restaurant where Fijian Hospitality and kindness prevailed. An old friend and local guide..... made sure our last night was special by opening the restaurant 1 hour earlier for us and providing a van back to the hotel. The fine food was followed by the restaurant staff singing the traditional good-bye song.



**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**December 8th, 6PM**

**RSVP**  
**TO:**

**GLENN AND PENI**

**BY DECEMBER 3RD**

**BRING APPETIZERS, SALADS, SIDE DISHES,  
OR A DESSERT  
PENI AND GLENN WILL PROVIDE HAM AND  
TURKEY (IF THERE ARE ENOUGH REQUESTS)**

**5515 BROME CT.  
ORANGEVALE, CA. 95662  
916-987-6927  
916-835-9198 (CELL)**

**BRING YOUR SLIDE SHOWS, VIDEOS, CARNIVAL  
ACTS & MAGIC TRICKS**

**EDITORIAL PAGE**

**I THINK I AM FINALLY GETTING THE HANG OF THIS NEWSLETTER STUFF AFTER SPENDING THE PAST TWO LONG EVENINGS AT IT. I HAD A BEAUTIFUL DRAFT DONE BUT IT WAS TOO LARGE TO ATTACH AND SEND, SO I HAD TO GO BACK AND RE-DO THE STORIES WITHOUT THE PICTURES. SORRY I COULDN'T PUT THEM ALL IN. COMPRESSING THE FILE DIDN'T WORK EITHER!**

**SEE EVERYONE AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**KAREN KESSEL**

