



THE AQUA TOOTER

On the web at <http://www.aquatutus.com>

January 2010

Since 1958... a publication from the Aqua Tutus Diving Club, a non-profit organization established to promote Water Safety and to further the sport of SCUBA Diving.

January Entertainment

On February 4 we are very pleased to present a special program by Harrison "Skip" Stubbs. Skip is a freelance marine videographer specializing in whales, dolphins, pinnipeds, sharks, and rays of the eastern Pacific. His credits include Tokyo



Broadcasting System and NHK (Japan), Discovery Channel (US, Canada, International), BBC (UK), Welt der Wunder and Pro Seiben (Germany), ZED (France), Outdoor Life Network (US). He served as the chief underwater videographer for the Hawaii Whale Research Foundation under Federal and State permits from 1993 to 2006), and has spent hundreds of hours observing and filming humpback whales in Hawaii, Mexico, and Tonga. Skip specializes in studying large marine life and has had close contact in the water with Fin whales, Sei whales, Bryde's whales, Sperm whales Gray whales, mola, seal ions, and striped marlin around the world. Much of his video is acquired while freediving, and he has led numerous trips; the results of a recent striped marlin project were recently published in National Geographic and Ocean Geographic.

Skip will present two videos with some extraordinary footage. One is of the striped marlin trip. Billfish are one of the top open-ocean predators, are extremely fast, travel in groups and hunt and feed cooperatively. Observing and filming them in the heat of a feeding attack is both dangerous and exciting.



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The second video is of SCUBA diving in Isla Guadalupe, well known for White Sharks, which appear only at specific times during the year. Having spent hundreds of hours exploring, observing, and filming the wildlife, there is far more to Guadalupe than Great Whites, making it a destination on par with – or exceeding - Cocos, Galapagos, and the Revilligedos ... with many pristine and unexplored dive sites.

Checkout Skip's websites at <http://www.oceanfootage.com/sellers/skipstubbs> and <http://www.oceanlight.com/log/category/skips-trips>. Bring your friends and family to enjoy the films of this skilled marine videographer.

Aqua Tutus Diving Club's next regular meeting:

Thursday, **February 4th 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Round Table Pizza
20920 Redwood Rd. Castro Valley
510-733-9500**

Upcoming Club Activity (local)

- Jan 23 Club activity, Kayaking at Elkhorn Slough
- Feb 27 Club Dive, Lovers Cove or TBD
- Mar 4 Club Dive, Wharf 2

check the club calendar

http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc_events

BOD MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan 21

Feb 18

March 18

Greg Gleeson's house

http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc_events

For the most current information

THANK YOU NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS
for making this month's AQUATOOTER possible: **Alan Throop, Jeff Tindall, Scott Harrison**

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Aqua Tutus Entertainment Report, January, 2010

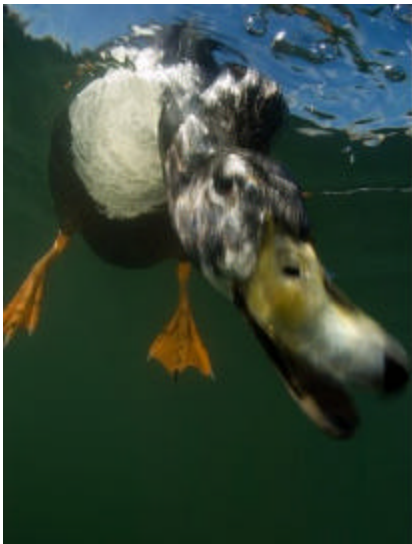
Reported by Alan Throop

At the January 7 General Meeting, our own **Scott Harrison** presented an excellent program from his collection of images developed over the last several years, covering both cold water and warm water environments.



Scott began with an interesting story about his **UW photography experience**, beginning with a Sea&Sea MotorMarine film system 5 years ago (from which he got NO images); then a Nikon Point & Shoot digital (which he immediately flooded); then a Sea&Sea DX750 (which produced only a few decent images); and finally, a used **Nikon D100 in an Aquatica housing and Sea&Sea strobes** (that can only be operated manually with his camera). The **photo** shows the difference in the two recent systems.

Scott is a self-taught UW photographer, who has learned by participating in photography clubs and competitions, reading topside and UW photography books, and emulating what he saw and liked. He has obviously learned quickly and has a natural inclination to photography. In the last year or two, Scott has won or placed in a number of photo competitions, including the recent NCUPS Seas 2009, and his images have appeared in Northwest Dive News, Reef Check Annual Report and The Seattle Dive and Travel Show Guide.



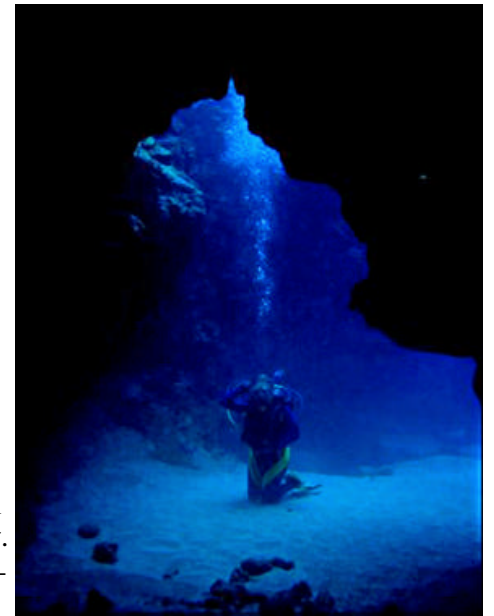
He first showed his **cold-water images**, using Pro Show Gold to add music, transitions, captions, and interesting effects – a very entertaining piece. There was a nice mixture of scenic, portrait, wide-angle, and macro images. Images were taken from Monterey, the Southern and Northern Channel Islands, and local dive sites – like the local Marina where a Mallard provided an interesting subject.



A number of Scott's shots showed interesting behavior, that adds a lot to the composition, color, or other aspects of the image. I've included a couple of my favorite shots here, but they just touch on what Scott has.

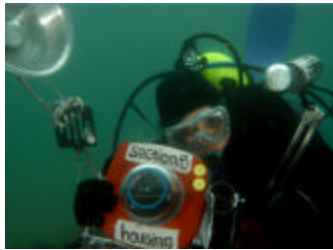
Later in the program, Scott showed images taken from his **warm water diving**. This has included Hawaii (Kona in particular is great diving), Florida (snorkeling with the manatees at Three Sisters), Bonaire (some of the best and easiest shore diving and UW photography in the world), and Guadalupe (dive with White Sharks in 100' vis!). He has collected some great images in his travels and diving. Again, I'm able to include here only a couple of images, but it's fun to see the exotic and typically larger subjects (sharks, manatees, etc) from these destinations.





During the presentation, Scott gave a fun program on his **“Top Five Tips” for UW Photography**. I’ve had to make room here for the images that illustrate them because we all enjoyed them so much.

1. Buy the right equipment (check out that fancy hardware)



2. Don't worry about trendy fashions on your model (check that trendy hairdo)



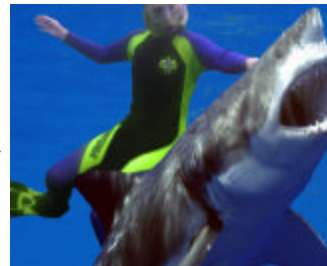
3. Maintain good eye contact with your model (if you can win the stare-down)



4. You CAN get too close to your subject (things look smaller in your wide-angle lens)

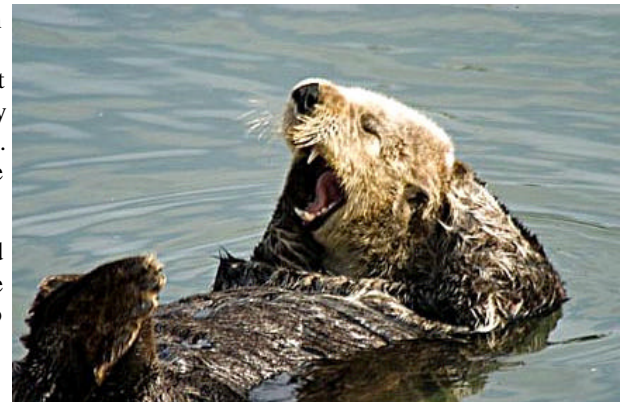


5. Stay Focused. Don't get distracted by your subject (it could get a bit dangerous)



Scott ended his program with a cute shot of a Sea Otter – likely taken in Monterey – and a really nice way to bring the point home that we are fortunate to have such World-Class diving and subjects in our local area. In Q&A, Scott mentioned that he shoots his images in raw format (instead of jpg) and did very little editing in PhotoShop Elements for the program (even very little cropping). He tends to shoot manual focus for Macro shots and auto focus for Wide-Angle shots.

Many thanks to Scott for presenting a great program. Scott says that he enjoyed the opportunity to organize and show his work. Remember that we plan to have “Member’s Nights” in about May and October, so be collecting your images to show to us all for those dates ... you might also enjoy putting your “stories” together.



Tooters First 2010 Dive at McAbee Reported by Alan Throop

About 16 Tooters & friends showed up Saturday, Jan 16, for the first monthly club dive of 2010. While the weather and CDIP model looked a bit iffy, it turned out to be great weather, wonderful diving, and a fun day ... as usual.

We dove at a very-high tide (+6'), so there was not much beach at McAbee.



The kelp was mostly gone from the winter storms, leaving only some isolated full kelp that must have a good holdfast. And the lack of kelp revealed a wonderful bottom, with rocky reef, sand and rock formations, color and beautiful marine life. I was struck by the difference from the summer when the kelp is so thick that it's dark and you don't get a good sense of the topography. This is a shallow dive anyway, and the thick summer kelp makes it seem even shallower. In the winter, you can swim out, dive, and not have to worry about saving air for the return under the kelp. ... Winter diving at McAbee has some real advantages.

The viz was good – about 20' – making it easy to surface swim till you saw the bottom you liked and then dropping down to explore. There was a small but detectable current and only a little surge, so the diving was excellent. One team had a harbor seal follow them the whole dive, coming to their mask, nipping on fins, and following the all the way to the exit. A number of cabezons were seen, along with the usual variety and number of nudibranchs, sunstars, etc.


The high tide often dictated a Monastery crawl from the rather-only moderate surf and few divers got to practice “roll-recovery” .. so this was a good chance to practice exit techniques. Most everyone got caught in the interesting “magnetic anomalies” at McAbee, and had to course-correct a couple of times to exit inside the cove. We had some new cold-water divers, folks with new equipment, etc, so we have some good stories to tell ... any maybe a couple of good bone nominations.



Guy and Melissa take a well deserved break after a beach crawl, completing their two cold water dives. Credit: Jeff Tindall

Parking was nice. Jim & Debbie found that if we had lunch at El Torrito, we could park in their lot for free, right next to McAbee. So the convenience of this was really nice. After the dive, we had a great lunch and fun discussion of the dive at El Torrito. Many thanks to Jim and Debbie for organizing this dive, and to all who came and added to the fun. It was a great way to kick off the new year!

Kona Condo for Rent
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5987 Telegraph Ave Oakland CA
(510)655-4344
for donated and discounted merchandise
for the Aquatutus Diving Club monthly
raffles.

Tooters Celebrate the Holidays Together

Reported by Alan Throop

Tooters gathered on Saturday, December 12, to celebrate the Holiday Season together at our traditional **Holiday Party**, held again this year at the **La Cabana Mexican restaurant** in Newark. We had about 35 members, family, and friends attend and a lot of fun for all. We missed a few of you, but hopefully all members can make it next year.

The owner and staff of La Cabana provided a great dinner, service, and joined us in the fun events of the evening. The holiday decorations and atmosphere was festive.



There was a wonderful variety of excellent Mexican cuisine. Many thanks to Ermilla for allowing us to take over the restaurant after 8 PM and working with us for the great evening. A new addition for the evening was Omer Arreola, a mariachi singer who delighted us with his music and dancing ... and the ladies with his good looks and moves!. You can come to see



Omer on other Saturday evenings.

As last year, the club funded the buffet and we had an open bar, with wonderful margaritas and other beverages. Party tickets were kept to a minimal \$5 per person.

Several members also helped organize and lead the party events as well: Dennis & Patti Hocker arranged the details with La Cabana.



As a follow-up to the great dinner, Connie Klein brought a colorful and tasty cake for desert.

Jim & Debbie Driggers provided nametags, door prize tickets, and took the entry fee. Pat & Greg Gleason and Matt & Laura Warren provided a great set of items for the raffle. We were lucky to have Santa Claus show up again this year, along with his Christmas Elf, who helped us with the fun gift exchange and photo opportunities.



Patti Shannon-Hocker provided the piñata again this year, and some of the “young at heart” managed to reach the goodies inside.

Alan Throop provided MC and music for a bit of dancing, and Colette Kelsey led a country line dance.

The most dance participation, however, seemed to be for the ol’ Hokey Pokey and Chicken Dance.

It was great fun to



have the La Cabana staff join us in most the events. The photos tell the story of a fun and successful holi-



day party. Thanks to all who helped organize and lead the party events ... and special thanks again to the owners and staff of La Cabana for providing such a convenient site and wonderful dinner for the party. Hopefully, we’ll see you all there next year!



Tooters celebrate the Holidays on Niles Canyon Train of Lights

Reported by Alan Throop

The Tooters had **another great holiday event**. Friday, December 4, we had 15 members, friends, and family attend what has become an annual traditional ride on the Niles Canyon Railway's (NCRY) Holiday Train of Lights, out of Sunol. The weather was great - clear and a just a good nip in the air that made it feel like the Holidays and just right for hot chocolate, hot buttered rum, hot coffee, ... hot anything. This year the Throops, Hockers, Driggers, Connie Klein, Larry & Linda Muth, and Nick & Alynn Stumpf joined in the fun.



According to their website, the Train of Lights is the **most-decorated train in the nation**. It's a thrill in itself to drive through Niles Canyon by automobile on most evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and see the brightly-lit train as it moves through the canyon. It now runs two trains between Sunol and Niles with about 10-12 vintage cars that have been lovingly-restored by the volunteer crew and are **VERY colorfully-decorated** for the Holi-

days, both inside and outside. There are enclosed passenger cars, cars with outside seating, dining cars, mail cars, "bar-cars" (with hot drinks, cookies, etc), lounging cars. The cars are pulled by a steam locomotive, with its old-fashioned sights and sounds. Each car has its own unique personality and lighting. There is holiday music and Santa and Mrs Claus toured the train for kids - both young and young-at-heart.



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Most Tooters braved the outside cars, but the camaraderie and refreshments that they brought kept everyone warm. Most people walked up and down the train during the trip, enjoying the different decorations, the many sights, sounds, and music, as it steamed from Sunol to downtown Niles and back. The ride takes about 70 minutes. After the train ride, many of the group meandered across the street to Bosco's Bones and Brew, where we had a "Bosco Brew" directly from (the stuffed) Mayor Bosco himself, and an enjoyable dinner.



For those who are interested, during the summer the NCRY operates every weekend. Also, once a month, the train has complimentary wine tasting - which the club has enjoyed in past years. During the trip, there is a narration of the interesting history of the canyon and Niles, which was a destination for San Franciscans, a center of the silent-film industry, and a hideout for bandidos. Check out the NCRY website at "www.ncry.org" for more information ... and join us next year for a fun holiday tradition.



IN THE NEWS

From pristine reefs to coral wastelands
Powered by CDNN - Cyber Diver News Network
July 25, 2009

HONOLULU, Hawaii — The scientific projections are ominous.

If substantial steps aren't taken globally to counter the effects of climate change, reefs in Hawai'i and around the world eventually could become coral wastelands, decimated by increasingly acidic and warming ocean waters.

Some scientists say such a scenario, which would wreak havoc with Hawai'i's fisheries and the state economy, could come by the end of the century, perhaps even a few decades sooner.

But the projections are just those — projections.

Although they are based on computer models and reams of scientific data, much uncertainty remains.

No one knows, for instance, how a complex marine ecosystem, such as a reef in the middle of the Pacific, will be precisely affected by the increasing temperatures and higher levels of acidity brought on by the burning of fossil fuels.

For the complete story check the web at <http://www.cdnn.info/news/science/sc090725.html>

IMPACT ROY WORLD

Have you seen the banner at CNN.com?? If not, just click on this link <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/impact/> (or paste it into your web browser address box) for easy access to a comprehensive array of web links to Haiti earthquake relief organizations. Your help counts!!

[Spiegel Grove scuba diving accident victim praying for a miracle](#)

Powered by CDNN - Cyber Diver News Network
January 7, 2010

“College tennis star, Matthew DeVliieger, 21, was paralyzed from the chest down after a rapid ascent from the deadly Spiegel Grove, an old ship scuttled by local dive industry promoters as part of an “artificial reef” scheme aimed at propping up struggling dive shops in the Florida Keys.” (editors note: A first-hand account of rapid ascent caused DCS)

For the complete story check the web at <http://www.cdnn.info/news/safety/s100107.html>



Guidelines for AquaTooter Input

The Tooter is created using a PC running Windows XP, MS Office 2003, and Adobe PhotoShop Elements 3.0

- For Text documents, please use file formats compatible with Windows XP and MS Office 2003. **WORD .doc format works**, but not .docx (Office 2007 format)
- For Photos, **please use JPEG format**, and reduce the file size to under 100KB
I use PhotoShop Elements (v 3.0) for file size reduction. With the image open select **image/resize/image size** and reduce the image size, and/or change the resolution, in the **Image size** dialogue box. Other photo management programs have similar tools.
- **Provide separate JPEG images**, even if your pictures are embedded in a WORD document. This makes it easier for me to layout the story for the Tooter. Sometimes the images inbedded in WORD do not copy reliably into the aquaTooter

Dive The Phillipines 2011 Jul 4-18, 2011

Contact Dennis Hocker dennis@rxscuba.com

Advertise in the TOOTER

Club members may advertise “dive equipment for sale” at no cost. Just send your requirements to the editor for listing
dwk.kelsey@gmail.com

Ads must be renewed (just email Don to advise) each month or will not appear the following month

CHECK OUT CDN'S “EASYDIVING-DIVING THE EASY WAY”

Practical advise from CDN'S Bruce Watkins and Dale Sheckler, now on the web at

http://www.cadivingnews.com/easydiving_easyway.html

2010

- Jan 21 Board Meeting (Greg's house) Dinner 6:30PM, business meeting 7:00PM
- Jan 23 Club Activity, Kayaking at Elkhorn Slough, Contact Debbie Driggers
- Feb 4 Membership Meeting, Roundtable Pizza, Castro Valley 7:30pm.
- Feb 18 Board Meeting (Greg's house) Dinner 6:30PM, business meeting 7:00PM
- Feb 27 Club Dive, Lovers Cove or TBD, 8am breakfast @ Black Bear, Monterey, contact Patti Shannon Hocker
- Mar 4 Membership Meeting, Roundtable Pizza, Castro Valley 7:30pm.
- Mar 4 Club Dive, Wharf 2, contact Connie Klein
- Mar 18 Board Meeting (Greg's house) Dinner 6:30PM, business meeting 7:00PM
- April 1 Membership Meeting, Roundtable Pizza, Castro Valley 7:30pm.
- April 11 Club Dive, Coral Street, Contact Fritz Welss
- Dec-Jan Cozumel, contact Patti or Dennis

2011

- Jul 4-18 Phillipines, Contact Dennis Hocker dennis@rxscuba.com

ATDC Dive Training

Check <http://www.aquatutus.com/activities.htm>

Dates are tentative and depend on participation.

- Classroom sessions held at 38962 Larkspur Street, Newark, CA

For more information contact

- Neil Benjamin: (510) 673-0073
neil.benjamin@lamrc.com
- Dennis Hocker: (510) 792-5606 dennis@rxscuba.com

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 California Diving News
<http://www.cadivingnews.com/>**

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Past President
 Greg Gleeson

Web "Goddess"
 Patti Shannon Hocker scubamom@rxscuba.com
 ATDC Web page: www.aquatutus.com

For quick access to *Chuck Tribolet's*
Internet Resources
for the Bay Area Diver
<http://www.garlic.com/~triblet/swell/>

News from the Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary

Keep in touch by surfing over to:
<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>

For updates on the Joint Management
Plan review process, surf over to:
<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>

For Cencal updates and calendar
<http://www.cencal.org/>



Aqua Tutus Diving Club
P.O. Box 11952
Pleasanton, CA 94588
North Coast Diving since 1958