



February 2011

In February we had an interesting guest speaker called Melvin Pasley (Lt.Col ret. US Army) he did an emotional slide show and his work was teaching scuba to disabled veterans, handicapped troupes returning from war some with emotional scars some missing limbs.

February was a busy month for the dive club as we also enjoyed a 2 day trip on the Bottom scratcher out of San Pedro.

The weather had be raining cold & miserable ,there was talk of cancellation but the trip went ahead as planned and the diving was great on top of which the hospitality and the food provided by the staff of Bottom Scratcher was excellent.



Here the Captain is playing his bagpipes! It turned out to be a fantastic experience.

Whites Dry Suit Demo

The club was invited to a dry suit demo at Aqualung headquarters in San Diego. The highlight was the tour after the demo as you had the chance to see behind the scenes on how Aqualung developed products, tested them and the companies they own.



Terri and Dave check out the new line of Whites Dry Suits. We did have a good turn-out of club members too.





We would like to thank our members and friends of the dive club.

If you have any photos or articles or dive news you would like to share we would love to see them please contact Suzy at

[Suzy\\_ultra@yahoo.com](mailto:Suzy_ultra@yahoo.com)



Seals and Junior divers of June 2011.



### Seen Any Basking Sharks? Contact NOAA

Basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*) are one of the largest fish in the sea, second only to whale sharks. They can reach a maximum size of 45 feet, and are distinguished from whale sharks by their pointy snouts, dark grey to brown color, and gill slits that nearly encircle their head. Like whale sharks, as well as all the largest rays and cetaceans, basking sharks are filter feeders foraging near the base of the food-web on krill and other zooplankton. Consequently, they have no interest in divers, surfers or swimmers.

Basking sharks are found around the world but are seen mostly nearshore in temperate waters where currents act to concentrate prey. Off the West Coast they have most commonly been

documented off Canada and Central California. In both locations up to the mid 1900s basking sharks, were targeted by fisheries or eradication programs that killed a large numbers of individuals. While historically animals were reported in the hundreds and thousands, more recently only a few individuals have been seen in any given year.

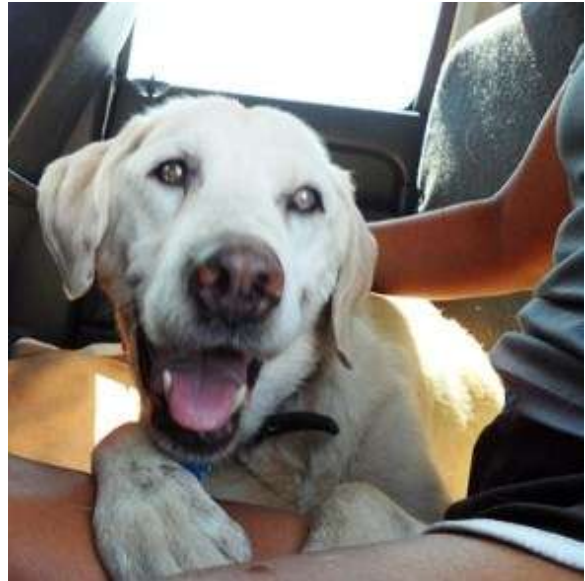
In response to the apparent decline in local populations, NOAA recently listed the basking shark as a "Species of Concern." Some reasons for this listing are the apparent reduction in numbers, the lack of a recovery in population size despite 50 years without being targeted, and lack of information on very basic aspects of their biology. For example, it is not known how old basking sharks are when they first reproduce, where they have their young, what the range of their movements are and the structure of their populations. Collecting this type of information will help us understand how both the environment and human activities influence basking shark numbers as well as aid in the development of a recovery plan for basking sharks off the West Coast of North America.

To begin to answer these questions NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center recently initiated a study on basking shark off the West Coast. One component of this study is to use satellite technology to track the

movements of basking sharks and determine how oceanography influences where they go and what they do. The satellite tags will record temperature and depth throughout the track allowing us to look at habitat use. To determine the shark's locations the tag will both link to GPS satellites when it is at the surface and record light levels which will allow us to estimate latitude and longitude.

NOAA scientists were expecting to tag basking sharks with collaborators off Canada where they have most commonly been seen in recent years. However, this year the forces of nature delivered unexpected numbers of basking sharks to our doorstep. On Sunday June 6th, 2010, a basking shark was tagged with a satellite tag off Pt. Loma. This is the first basking shark tagged in the Pacific

If you see a basking shark while you are on the water and can call from your vessel, please call John Hyde at (760) 408-7726 or Heidi Dewar at (858) 546-7023.



Buster our beloved Yellow Lab of 17 years past away in Suzy s arms with AL on July 12<sup>th</sup> 4.15pm he will be greatly missed and took a huge part of our hearts to doggy heaven.