

The South Swell

Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association
Winter Newsletter 2010

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Ode to Lucky and Mary

by Ed Neely

I'll tell you a tale of old Lucky,
He's a lucky old lobster, indeed.
Being saved from served on a plat-
ter,
By dear Mary's and Sparky's good
deed.

A crustacean that lived
in the ocean,
Off the Dana Point
headlands, so fair,
Where he ruled for
past a half cen'tree.
In the rock reefs and
kelp without care

Old Lucky had many acquaintance,
With the dolphins and whales and
the bass
But an unlucky meet up with lob-
sterman Jon,
Caused Lucky to near lose his ass.

T'was a night he was mind'n his
business,
Much'n mussels and urchins
and worms,
That he entered a trap of old
lobsterman Jon's,
With metal mesh thick and so
firm

Before long he was up on the
lobsterman's boat,
And motoring into the har-

bor,
Then into Jon's Market and into a
tank,
And his life set at 200 dollar.



This spiny old crawler was
not one to sit
And accept what appeared to
be fate.
So well after midnight with
Papillion stealth,
He jumped tank attempting
a break.

He could smell the fresh
scent of seawater,
Wafting in from just under the
door.
But sadly he just couldn't make it.
Megan found him next day on the
floor.

It was solitary confinement,



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President's Message

by Steve Stirrett

There is good news and bad news for our visitors center remodeling. First, the good news. We have had unbelievably good support from the local community. Large donations from Surfrider Foundation and from Rainbow Sandals are at the top of the list. In October, Rainbow Sandals, with owner Sparky at the helm, put on a top rate SUP (stand up paddle) event at Doho. Competitors came from afar and near, and its success led to this large donation to assist in reopening our visitors center. Generous donations have previously been given by Surfrider Foundation, Hobie Cat, The Grunion Run, Doheny Longboard Surfing Association, Hawaiian Surf Club, and the City of Dana Point. But the bad news is that the State of California, with all of its budget problems, has not been able to supply the

manpower needed for speedy construction. So, the remodeling will take longer than anticipated, but we should have a really cool and unique visitors center when completed.

We had a great DSBI holiday party this year, giving thanks to the volunteers and park staff that have put their heart and souls into the park. We gave this year's Porter Pelican Award to DSBI board member Nyle Schafhauser for putting together three successful Surf-A-Rama events at the park.

I have been President of the Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association for over four years now, after having been its V.P. for eight years, and secretary for three years. I have loved doing this, but will not seek re-election as President at the January annual meeting and elections. My profession has dictated that I pay more attention to it, instead of spending the considerable volunteer time

needed for the fun stuff of being The DSBI Pres. So, our current V.P. Bill Brooks will take over as our fearless leader and I will take over his spot as second in command. Bill has been volunteering with the park for many years, contributing to many events, and we will be in good hands as he takes us into the next decade. So, this will be my last President's Message. A big old "mahalo" to our DSBI board of directors and officers for helping make it easy for an old surfer dude like me.

And remember the old



camping adage, "leave it cleaner than you found it". Aloha.

Battle of the Paddle

by President Elect Bill Brooks

Rainbow Sandals held its second annual Battle of the Paddle the ninth and tenth of October. This year's event was much bigger than their first. Your interpretive association worked closely with the team from Rainbow Sandals to make this the second largest event in the park, behind the Blues Festival.

We were in charge of the Kid's Zone a specially designed area to introduce children to stand-up paddling as well as to make them feel part of this event. Jay (Sparky) Longley, Rainbow Sandals president and founder, kept saying, "This is all about the kids." We had booths from the City of

Dana Point, Orange County Sheriff's Department, and Dana Point Sportfishing just to name a few. Board member Mary Hartman set up her mermaid tent, and the bubble activities she had were a hit



with kids of all ages. Your board had a booth where kids decorated

little wooden surfboards. We blew through 120 surfboards in no time. We also made popcorn, and Doheny's Lifeguards provided snow cones. In addition, kids could give stand-up paddling a try, ride in an outrigger canoe, and help hand-shape a wooden surfboard the traditional Hawaiian way. The two-day event featured a number of themed stand-up paddle races, the longest of which was to the San Clemente pier and back. Famed surf artist Drew Brophy was on hand painting one of his colorful murals in the center of the event. Stand-up paddle vendors, food, en-

Ode to Lucky and Mary

Ode

For the young lobsters picked on him so.
And it's here that enters dear Mary
With her hunger and boyfriend in tow.

They came in to dine on clam chowder,
A specialty served up at Jon's.
But she saw and then heard about Lucky,
And she knew what she must set upon.

Dear Mary's a woman of passion,
A maiden in love with all life,
And it torn at her heart to see Lucky,
This old lobster in terminal strife.

So off she went to the rescue,
To friends in D.S.B.I.A.
She proclaimed, "saving Lucky's our mission, And we have to do it today!"

Among those who heard Mary's challenge,
Was the Rainbow Sandal man, Jay,
Who is much better known as old Sparky,
And a waterman extrordinay (x trordin ay).

In the blink of an eye, just one second,
Sparky whips out 200 in cash.
He shouts out, "I'm with you, dear Mary,
And tomorrow we'll give Lucky a splash."

Down in the Dana Point Harbor next morn'n,
In Jon's Fish Market Café,
They fork over the bail to spring Lucky,
Kenny carries him out to the bay.

And Lucky is wiggling and snapping

Ode

He's concerned about this little walk.
D.S.B.I.A. crew and Sparky,
Accompany him down to the dock.

Down into the harbor Ken drops him,
With a splash he's off to the depths,
Where all hope he lives long in safety,
There're no divers or lobstermen's nets.

D.S.B.I.A. crew is cheering,
Dear Mary, she smiles with a tear.
And Sparky, he sports one incredible grin
About what they've all done right here.



And Lucky, he's down on the harbor's sea floor,
He'll spawn generations to come.
It's a bright happy day for all at the docks,
Because of what Mary has done.

And now for the other half of the pie...2009

By Doheny Park Interpreter Vicki Wiker

Summertime Interpretive Fireworks

The summer season went off with a "bang" in the month of July with some type of program nearly every day of the week. Junior Rangers met four



days a week while the staff (and volunteers) hosted evening programs about three nights a week. New Camp Host John Landgard got so inspired by all of the var-

ied topics offered at the Campfire Center that he climbed on board by doing a few geology related programs. John even hosted an outing down to Dana Point harbor to explore some unique geologic features of the area.

Many thanks to Doheny's dynamite Ranger staff for helping out despite short-staffing and the mandated furlough program. The campers were delighted with the August daytime activities

and the natural recreation that the ocean affords...let's hope the summer of 2010 shines a miracle our way!

Autumn bliss without any local wildfires A Halloween Haunting we will go

Doheny's "Annual Halloween Haunt" has become one of our premiere interpretive attractions of the year. Supervising Ranger Jim Serpa starts work on this feat at least a year in advance, however, he wasn't prepared for Fun Zone creator, Robbie, to have to pull out a month before the event due to health concerns (we missed you

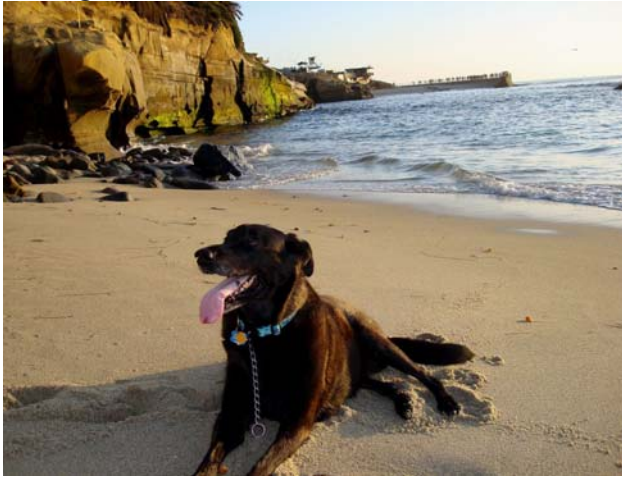
Tick, tick, tick

by Supervising Ranger Jim Serpa

Time marches on and I am reminded of it every day when I look at the silver muzzled snout of my super hound Xena. You might remember her from a previous newsletter. In her spry days, she used to roam the San Onofre trails area, earning the coveted title Bark-e-ologist. She garnered that name after a very productive year of excavating the beach sands at trails, finding among other things, a whale rib, and some Baleen. Now, after two knee operations and ten or so added years, she moves at a little slower pace but still has the keen nose and eye.

It seems like just yesterday when we caught the two large morays we have had housed here for the past 19 years! Sadly last month, the younger, but larger, moray passed away. It really pained me to think about all the people that have learned about morays from him, the times we spent petting it's back and belly. Of course, there is the time our chillers malfunctioned, only to have me discover that the water had dropped to thirty something degrees by the morning. They were almost comatose when I pulled them out. I happened to notice some slight movement in them so I decided to try and warm them up. I proceeded to place them in slightly warmer water, then again in a little warmer and then again and again until the morays were in water

they could tolerate. Slowly, very slowly, they started coming around and within a day they were back to normal. I couldn't believe it! We



will all miss him or her, no real way to tell by the way, although Senior Park Aide Rachel Hammer had dubbed the duo Flotsam and Jetsam from Disney's Little Mermaid.

And speaking of the aquarium, never fear, we are trying to get the design plans sent out for bid this month. That means, in a perfect world and if things went as they should or could, we might be able to start construction on the simulated tide pool enclosure by mid summer. Wouldn't that be great? Once again, to me, it seems like we have been out of the old Visitor Center building forever. People always come up to my new office and marvel at the view and wonder why I would ever want to leave. I tell them, that while it is nice, I would gladly trade it in this second if we could only get our beloved old aquarium building back up and running again. Keep your fingers crossed.

Writing this, I am gazing out at Thor's Hammer. For those of you that don't know, it's the strange hammer shaped concrete fixture at the end of the rocky outcropping in front of the main lifeguard tower. Over the last 19 years here I have seen it fully exposed, partially exposed and completely covered in beach sand, all done naturally by the ebb and flow of the

cont. next page, Tick, tick



Battle of the Paddle

by Bill Brooks

ertainment, and a luau on Saturday night rounded out the Battle of the Paddle.

Rainbow Sandals donated \$7,000.00 from the Battle of the Paddle to our organization, and this money is currently being used to purchase building materials for Doheny's Visitor's Center remodel. If you're around during the second weekend in October this year, don't miss the third annual Battle of the Paddle.



Tick, tick, tick cont.

Doheny Beach sand. It seems to be crumbling little by little each year. Where once, it was a full T-shaped hammer, the top of the T seems to be disappearing slowly. I even ran across a very old picture on the internet taken in 1965. It had to do with a study on sand movement and structures that are used to help direct it's movement. I hope it outlasts me here at Doheny, if not I want a piece.....hey, maybe that could be a money maker for DSBI if it does, in fact, crumble away. I can see it now, "Own a Piece of the Hammer" Maybe we should get the sale signs ready, Rachel. Storms are forecast for all next week.

They're back...

The humboldt or jumbo squid, have made their way back to our coastline this winter. It wasn't that long ago that this was REAL big news, but for some unknown reason we seem to be seeing them every few years. These squid are large, up to six foot and 100 pounds, aggressive hunters. In Baja California locals call them diablos rojos. Like all squid, they have the ability to change colors instantly. Just why they are around is not known, but scientists that study them speculate that the rise in the sea surface temperatures globally is to blame while others think that over fishing of the squids main predators has allowed the squid to increase its range. Predators of this beast would include, sharks, marlin, swordfish and sperm whales. Jumbo squid only live about a year so they are very quick growers and mating must take place during that first year.



It is truly amazing to see how much sand actually moves around the hammer at Doheny.



Another interesting fact about these active hunters is that their suction discs have barbed teeth on the allowing for better catching ability. They have been known to attack divers when aroused and just a couple of years ago, several people were attacked off San Diego while diving with them. There has never been a confirmed death by a jumbo squid on a diver. They are prized by fisherman for their fight and for their delicate flavor. Some people have called the poor man's abalone. Enjoy them while you can, the jumbo squid can disappear as fast as they show up.



Visitor Center Update

By the time you read this we hope to have the RFP out to rehab the Visitor Center. In laymen's terms, this means we hope the contract describing just what we want, will be out for contractors to submit a bid for the re-install of the tidepool and aquariums. Bob Scholfield and



his crew have been busy working on the office side of the building, actually installing canned ceiling lights, windows and drywall in recent weeks.

And now for the other half of the pie...2009 cont.

By Doheny Park Interpreter Vicki Wiker

Robbie). Doheny's maintenance crew took on this task (along with restoration of the Visitor's Center and general park operations) without so much as a blink of an eye! In fact, Worker I Larry Ponce

"Doheny Surfing Lore" featuring history and myths of the area (for example: "Boneyards" You get the idea?! We are thrilled to report that 1, 276 pounds of non-perishables went to Second Harvest



Food Bank. A particular note of appreciation to Mr. Noall Silvester with the Doubletree Guest Suites for another year of donated cookies. You are a splendid next door neighbor!

25th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day Doheny style

Coastal Cleanup

Day is probably one of my favorite restoration projects of the year because it brings out so many passionate volunteers who have a true love for Sister Sea. Additionally, it's a special feeling being part of a global effort to clean up the ocean environment. Here we are in our own backyard, Doheny State



spearheaded this effort with watchful guidance from Maintenance Supervisor Robert Scholfield.

The Fun Zone was set up in a few (stressful) days with the finishing touches polished up on the day of the Haunt. It seems as though every year this event evolves into something bigger and better. This year was no exception with a whopping turnout of 2,000 guests (give or take a few hundred.)

Ranger Jim even increased the diversity of educational outreach booths with a few new ones added this year. DSBIA Board Member Mary Hartmann and District Interpretive Specialist Blythe Liles was one of the new booths with their

ing 600-lbs of trash and 50-lbs of recyclables. We were able to offer a wealth of education thanks to outreach booths by the City of Dana Point, South Coast Water District, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Earth/Ocean Society, and local Surfrider Foundation. DSBIA Board member Ed Neely even set up a booth on behalf of the Association. As usual, we were grateful to have donations from the City of DP to host a barbecue and Starbucks for morning coffee. The Water District even donated dispensers full of authentic ground water drinking water. Many thanks goes out to the collective efforts of so many incredible individuals and agencies.

Off I go to pedal in the fresh air and wind

I just wanted to wish all of you a wonderful New Year full of good cheer and great adventures! May the wind blow favorable in your direction (whether pedal or paddle)...



I look forward to sharing with you all of the untold treasures of the first half of 2010. Let's cross those muddy fingers and sandy toes that the State Parks keeps moving forward

Beach, cleaning the beach, both creeks, jetty, and just about every crack in between! This event, like the Haunt, seems to grow bigger every year. We welcomed a record-breaking 375 volunteers who were successful in remov-

ing 600-lbs of trash and 50-lbs of recyclables. We were able to offer a wealth of education thanks to outreach booths by the City of Dana Point, South Coast Water District, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Earth/Ocean Society, and local Surfrider Foundation. DSBIA Board member Ed Neely even set up a booth on behalf of the Association. As usual, we were grateful to have donations from the City of DP to host a barbecue and Starbucks for morning coffee. The Water District even donated dispensers full of authentic ground water drinking water. Many thanks goes out to the collective efforts of so many incredible individuals and agencies.



January 2010 Storms

All year long we have been hearing that an el nino was poised to attack our coastline. These storms packed a wallop but the jury is still out if it was el nino related. Either way alot of damage took place here at Doheny..



The Big Move

Someone once said, “Where’s the good in goodbyes?” Well, I can say I have found it, in this case. On February 12th, Brian Lane and I transported our two remaining morays to the Southern California Marine Institute(SCMI) in San Pedro. They will house the morays while the really nasty rebuilding takes place at the



visitor center. Upon completion, they will give them back to us. We were being stumped at every turn, trying to find the morays a temporary (or permanent) home and I was getting really frustrated. I was speaking with new DSIA president Bill Brooks one day to see if he had any ideas and he said we should try SCMI. Eureka! We scored gold. They house many varieties fish for different colleges around the country, while studies are ongoing. It was really out of the way and more Doc Ricketts, a-la Cannery Row than you can believe, but it seems like they will be well cared for.



Pepe the moray checking out its temporary digs

Random shots of Doho



How many times have you seen this at Doheny? Storm Damage necessitated this closure.



Ranger Brian Kummer tries out the new experimental T3 at Doheny



Ranger Serpa and son Noa show off a garter snake they rescued from the beach after the storms. Since garter snakes like riparian habitats we released it by North Creek.



Chance of a Lifetime

In January, Brian Kummer, Brian Lane, Bill Brooks and myself got to take in a tour and lecture at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. The tour consisted of looking



through the fish collections(one of the largest in the world) and invertebrate collections focusing on krill and squid. What a thrill it was to actually hold a whale shark(in a bottle) or look closely at a real viperfish. The only thing bad I can say about the trip was that it was too short (about two and a half hours) I could have spent multiple days there looking and asking questions. To top it all, off we were able to have a sunset dinner right next to Torrey Pines State Reserve at a great taco and burrito establishment.

