USU SCUBA Trip to Monterey, CA (2008)
Last updated 14 April 2008

Contact Jesse Walker (ususcuba@gmail.com) or visit the club web site at http://www.usu.edu/scuba for updates.

Dates:
Will be diving in CA May 19-23, 2008. Plan on total trip dates of about 17-25 May (incl. travel)

Destination:
Monterey, CA

Duration:
Five days of diving, with one or two days of travel at each end of that (it's about a 14 hour drive). If you're driving, you can arrive and leave as needed to accommodate your schedule.

Travel Plans:
Carpooling. Each car must transport both divers and their full gear (unless renting in Monterey). Split gas costs.

Lodging:
Either camping or motels. Split lodging costs so ~$15/night/person (motel) or ~$6/night/person (camping).

Motels: ~$60/night (2 queen-size beds; up to 4 people?). There are MANY motels in the area. Look along Munras Ave or N. Fremont St. I'd suggest:
- Surf Inn (on Munras; ~$55-60/night)
- Lone Oak Lodge (Fremont; ~$70/night)
- Del Monte Beach Inn (a neat bed and breakfast facing Del Monte Beach; ~$70/night)

Camping available at Veterans Memorial State Park ($25/night 1st car, +$5/2nd car for a campsite in Monterey).

Tentative Itinerary (flexible):
THU or FRI: Meet for potluck dinner in evening, discuss trip.
SAT: leave (morning) for trip; may dive at Blue Lake and/or Lake Tahoe on the way (or on return trip).
SUN: finish drive to Monterey, camp at Veteran's Memorial State Park.
MON: Dive Monterey. 3 daytime dives, possible night dive.
TUE: Dive Monterey. 3 daytime dives, possible night dive.
WED: Diving
THU: Diving (alternatively, one day could be devoted to the Monterey Bay Aquarium: very nice!)
FRI: Diving. Could leave for UT.
SAT: Drive home (possible morning dive? possible camping on the way home?)
SUN: Arrive in Logan

Typical Diving Day schedule: very flexible
7am: wake, eat, drive to dive site
8 or 9am: 1st dive. See cool stuff.
10:30am: fill tanks at local scuba shop, eat snacks, log dive.
Noon: 2nd dive. More cool stuff.
1:30pm: fill tanks, get lunch, log dive, explore area.
3:30pm: 3rd dive.
5pm: fill tanks.
6pm: dinner, head to camp/motel, etc.
9pm: night dive (optional).
10pm: sleep (camping or motel)
Dive Sites in Monterey/Carmel that we'll likely visit:
Breakwater
Metridium Fields
Hidden Beach
McAbee Beach
Lover's Cove
Otter Cove
Coral Street Beach
Butterfly House
Copper Roof House
Monastery Beach (North and South ends)
Point Lobos (Whaler's Cove)
...and others...

Gear Lists: stuff to bring

SCUBA gear (most can be rented if needed):
wetsuit (7mm fullsuit and vest, 2-piece 7mm suit, or equivalent; a drysuit would be even better, but expensive and requires additional training)
hood (or hooded vest)
boots (5mm+)
gloves (3mm or 5mm)
mask
snorkel (optional)
fins
Buoyancy Compensator (BC)
Regulator Set (1st stage, 2- 2nd stages (primary and alternate), pressure and depth gauges, bottom timer or dive computer)
Tank
Weight belt (with at least 20 lbs of weight, some people may need more).
Dive lights (for night diving, which is optional): one primary (big), one backup (small)
Dive knife or shears
Whistle

Camping gear (if camping in Monterey or along the way):
sleeping bag
sleeping pad
ground cloth/tarp
tent (optional)
cooking stove and cookware (per ~4 people)

Personal gear:
clothing
toiletries/personal stuff
spending $
snack food (there's a Trader Joe's as well as other grocery stores in the Monterey area)
camera
scuba certification card
scuba log book
scuba dive table
Estimated trip cost per person:
$50-100 transportation (gas)
$90 food (depends on food preferences)
$35-75 camping/motel (if sharing accommodations)
$50 air fills
??? SCUBA rentals/purchases

Total: ~$225-300 per person (estimated minimum)

SCUBA Rental fees if you wait until CA to rent stuff (approximate):
BC: $10/day
Regs: $14/day
Wetsuit (plus hood, boots, gloves): $25/day
Weight Belt w/ weight: $10/day
tank: $10/day

Note: can rent complete scuba package in Monterey (all of above, plus more) for ~$80/day (additional days half off). See http://www.mbdscuba.com for details.

Suggestion: rent gear ahead of time from Hans ($120 for entire trip for all scuba and personal gear), Lowell, or Neptune Divers (in SLC; $120 for 10-day scuba gear rental). Could also buy used.

SCUBA skills we may work on during the trip:
Buoyancy, proper weighting and gear configuration
Beach entries and exits
Critter identification (fish, invertebrates, algae, etc)
Kelp diving
Night diving
Deep diving (to ~80 ft, deeper possible for those with additional training and experience)
Rescue techniques
Navigation
Underwater Photography