

the right place while Ray continued his dive alone, oblivious that his entire group was no longer with him.

Geronimo, was tops. The other driver, Luis, was terrible. He was dropping and stepping on equipment and didn't seem to care.

PANAMA

MV Coral Star, January 2001, Terry Anderson. Vis: 30-80 ft. Water: 84 F. Flew to Panama City, met at airport and taken to nice hotel in the safe, financial and restaurant district of the city. Rented a car for \$40 and saw the entire canal in a day. Flew to David in the north, and taken to the boat. One week is between \$1600-1800, depending on the cabins. The Coral Star is an excellent 110 foot live-aboard, fully air conditioned, with large cabins and spacious living room and bar. Captain Ted and his crew were friendly and helpful. Two dive masters. Excellent, fresh food, as much as you can eat. After morning dive, hot towels and cookies. Only 6 divers on a boat that could hold 16, which would be too crowded. Coif Island, Pacific side, is rather like that side off Costa Rica. Many white tips, turtles, a million eels (some free swimming). One day we saw 7 small mantas, or mature devil rays (5 foot), and they zoomed into us; another day we saw 5. Lots of fun on night dives, the forth dive of the day. Superb service, nice folks. (Ph: (800) 733-4742 or (307) 733-3127; fax (504) 871-7150; e-mail sherri@coralstar.com; website www.coralstar.com)

UNITED STATES

Southern California

Horizon, August 2000, Gordon Robinson, Larkspur, CA. Vis: 20-60 Ft. Water: 60-68 F, calm and flat. Logged dives: 2,000. A great boat for a serious diver with a specific purpose. I was on the trip reported in latest issue of Undercurrent. I was doing photography and the crew tried hard to take care of me as well as the hunters. Photo set up a little more cramped that the article indicated, but okay. Real issue is parking at harbor. I was alone so needed to carry my stuff without help. Had to wait two hours for parking space. I would pay a lot not to have that hassle. (Ph: (858) 277-7823; e-mail diveSD@horizoncharters.com; website www.horizoncharters.com)

Peace, October 2000, Jeff McGrath (jamc2dive@aol.com) Fremont, CA. Vis: 30-60 ft. Water: 60-70 F. Logged dives: 800 +. (Ph: 805-984-2025; fax 805-382-6178)

Peace, May 2001, Tim & Paula Pastushin, Mission Viejo, CA. Vis: 30-60 ft. Water: 48-52 F, calm and flat. Logged dives: 450. Excellent dive boat — 2 day trip to dive pinnacles around San Miguel Island. Excellent deep diving on Richardson's & Wilson's Rock, Boomerang Bank. Lots of current and surge — not for inexperienced. Fished between dives for rockfish and lingcod. Hot tub gratifying for cold hands after dives. Seven dives offered first day. 3 on the second. Food outstanding. BYOB. Very solo and/or game tolerant. Bow gate great for high current giant

strides. Got to watch feeding gray whales with my morning coffee.

Sand Dollar, September 2000, Carl Rutherford, Redmond, WA. Vis: 30-60 ft. Water: 60-65 F. Dive restrictions: none. A group of 16 divers from Seattle chartered the 65' boat Sand Dollar and left Long Beach at midnight. We dove San Clemente, Santa Barbara and Santa Catalina. We could easily dive 5 times/day. We dove 3-1/2 days returning at 5:30 pm. The diving was excellent. We dove pinnacles, reefs, walls of 100', currents, surges, kelp beds and caverns. There were giant sea bass, horn sharks, sea lions, harbor seals (7 feet long) and hundreds of lobsters. The meals were good and plentiful. The captain gave good briefings and anchored on top of our dive spots. The crew was helpful. The divers chose the sites from suggestions from the captain. The captain moved the boat as much as we wanted. The ladder and dive platform was excellent. Sleeping quarters — poor, gearing up bench not designed well, not enough air tanks. 50% of tanks were Nitrox but only 3 of us used Nitrox. 18 dives in 32 days. A lot of diving for the dollar. (Ph: 909-279-3483; fax 562-437-3378; e-mail diving@diving.net; website www.diving.net)

Vision, Truth Aquatics, May 2001, Keith Weed & Julia Molander, San Francisco, CA. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 20 to 60 Feet. Water: 58 to 60 F, calm currents. Flat calm seas allowing us to go to San Miguel Island for two days and Anacapa Island for one. Highlights included the current swept pinnacles of Wilson Rock (near San Miguel) and the mellow kelp forests of Landings Cove and Cathedral Cove on Anacapa. At several anchorages, humpback whales came close to the boat, a large school of dolphin played in our bow wave for about 15 minutes. Our favorite sites were a 10 foot long purple jellyfish and an angel shark. Polly, the chef, made superb meals, the best we've had on a California boat. The sun did not shine at all for the three days, which helps explain the flat seas, a blessing in disguise. This was a photo oriented trip so that E-6 was available. (Ph: 805-962-1127; fax 805-564-6754; e-mail info@truthaquatics.com; website www.truthaquatics.com)

Vision, September 2000, Peter Golitzen, El Cerrito, CA. Vision limited load trip is best of California Dives. Great food (upgraded from standard trip). Glen Fritzler (co-owner) shoots for San Miguel, knows it well.