

e-mail info@loisann.com; website www.loisann.com)

LIVE-ABOARDS

CANADA

***Nautilus Explorer*, December 2001, Sami Laine (sami@kelpdiver.com) Santa Clara, CA.** Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 40 to 80 Feet. Water: 42 to 45 F, calm currents. Fourth trip on the boat, an excellent operation, outstanding value. Crew is courteous and fun, as long as you don't endanger yourself or others; safety conscious. ISO Quality Certificate. Main boat is excellent: functional, clean and nice, not flashy. Staterooms have adequate space, top deck suites comfortable. Many invisible upgrades have increased comfort: more sound insulation, new silent hydraulic pump for winches. Food is good home cooking, could use more non-meat options (fish, vegetable dishes, etc.) and more imagination. Dive "skiff" is huge and outstanding: good ladders, spacious gear stations, fast. Runs to dive sites are short, just enough time to gear up; be ready to splash and you can maximize the bottom time that is limited to 50 mins. New year in BC equals cold water, proper drysuit setup a must. Thorough dive briefings. Nitrox, Argon and large steel tanks available (request in your reservation). Read the "What to Bring" section of reservation package, as you need to

bring own towel and toiletries. Very large camera table, separate charging station with stable power (110v) and plentiful outlets, onboard E-6, galley has built-in slide table and power outlets for your own tables or laptops. Two TVs in lounge for video review. (Ph: 888 4 DIVE BC; e-mail mike@divebc.com; website www.divebc.com)

***Nautilus Explorer*, April 2002, Nikki Mahan, Bellevue, WA.** Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 40 to 60 Feet. Water: 46 to 51 F, surge, currents. We did an exploratory trip to the Hakai Pass area; most of the dives were very good. We were buzzed by a huge stellar sea lion at 60 feet, cool! Browning Wall was the most spectacular area with incredible red, purple and hot pink soft corals and of course the Irish Lords, decorator crabs, war bonnets, grunt sculpins. The six wolf eels at Dillon Rock are amazing. Many huge octos were out playing. The dive off Nakwato Island with the 20 knot current, to see the long necked goose barnacles, is always great. This is truly some of the best diving in the world. Mike and Mary Ann Lever have one of the best live-aboard operations I've been on. Mike's dive briefings and knowledge of the dive sites is the best. The boat is comfortable and accommodating. I have to mention Jud and Carrie as two of my favorite all time crew members.

COLOMBIA

***Sea Hunter*, June 2002, Nikki Mahan, Bellevue, WA.** Experience: