



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2013

## NEWS BITES

### Upcoming Events

We have a few events coming up that we hope everyone will join:

- Long-Range Recreational Charters (August 17, September 14)
- Point Lobos Invitational (August 3)

### The Board Welcomes New Board Member Ian Lee

The board is pleased to announce that Ian Lee has joined the BAUE Board of Directors! Ian has been dedicating his time & energy to help build our community even before becoming a board member. He has worked as a liaison to new members, answering questions and getting divers interested, informed, and excited about diving with us. Starting several months ago, he has been the organizer of the Recreational charters, and since he took over the role we have not had to cancel a Rec Boat yet (which is a trend he would like to continue!). He has also been working behind the scenes on the BAUE website and administrative issues, working on modernizing the BAUE Calendar and image gallery software, as well as working on ways to integrate with Facebook. These are just a few of the roles and responsibilities that Ian has taken on as a member of BAUE, and we look forward to more of his valuable contributions as a board member.

## PROJECTS

### Project Baseline Update

by Mark Lloyd

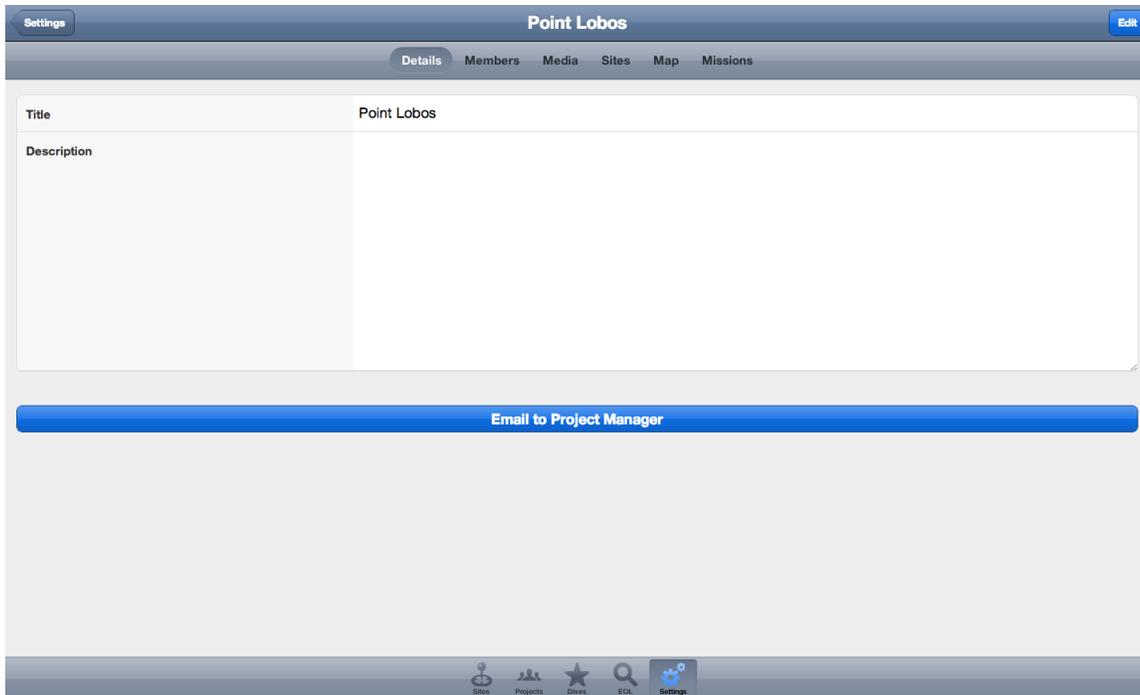
Project Baseline is a grassroots, environmental conservation initiative. Our organization exists to support people who are invested in water quality and availability by providing a platform that gives voice to otherwise under- or undocumented aquatic areas. We started as an organization built around underwater cave and open water divers.

Project Baseline encourages people to use pictures and dive logs already being collected for personal records, and upload that data into our database. Observations that are cataloged in an accessible, defensible and consistent manner can be used over time to gain a deeper understanding of each place visited by everyday adventurers. We are thrilled to be part of the Citizen Scientist movement that,

when managed effectively, can be extremely influential in any number of scientific or public policy applications.

BAUE's contribution to Project Baseline is an ongoing effort to capture data in the form of video, photo, and other data in the Point Lobos Marine Park.

The most interesting news coming out from the Project Baseline HQ is that the database and the associated interface that divers will be interacting with is changing radically. All the current site managers have access to the interface which is shown below:



For those of you who are familiar with the old interface, this departure from Excel spreadsheets and Google Earth is very welcome. In the coming months after the beta testing has been completed, we will switch over to the system and link our current data to it.

Current data captured on the BAUE website:

Site	Video	Photos
Hole in the Wall	3	2
End of Middle Reef	0 (1 being edited)	2
Lone Metridium	1	2
Worm Patch	0 (1 being edited)	1
Granite Point Wall	1	2
Sea Mount	1	1

There are a number of videos and photos to be uploaded, but progress continues. In the coming months we are targeting to get a visibility and temperature process worked out so that this data can be added to the photographic and video evidence.

If you are interested in collecting information for project baseline please contact Mark Lloyd.

## Point Lobos Underwater Parks Day

by Allison Lee

In January, BAUE participated in the Underwater Parks Day at Point Lobos, an event to celebrate the marine protected areas in Central California. The event included a marine life display at Whaler's Cove, where visitors could play with some of our local critters. We collected the critters in the morning, and after an hour or two on display, they were returned to the water. It was a great day for the event -- warm and sunny, and nice flat seas. The visibility was also excellent in the cove, which certainly helped with our collection efforts.

My team (which included Mykle and Ian) managed to find a variety of snails, crabs, sea stars, and even some small fish while we were still in the cove. I was on the hunt for nudibranchs, and had only managed to find relatively "boring" specimens in the cove. So we relocated to the south end of Middle Reef, where there was a variety of slightly more interesting species. On the way in, we also stopped at the rock just off of the ramp to collect some Hilton's aeolids. I was pretty impressed



with some of our specimens (especially the fish), but all of the other teams seemed to have found equally impressive specimens. The little "tanks" on the display were chock full of critters! My favorites were the Hilton's aeolid that perched on top of a crab, and the very wily keyhole limpet who kept trying to escape from its tub.

The marine life stations were quite a hit, so much so that we ended up keeping them open a little longer than originally planned. I talked to a bunch of different people, mostly about nudibranchs (since I don't know much about anything else). I even managed to convince some of the kids to pet the slugs. In contrast to the events that we've done in the past for school children, I found that the adults had some pretty tricky questions. Luckily we had a few of our marine scientist members on hand to answer those

questions. When it was time to shut down the marine stations, we returned all of the critters back to the water.

Later in the afternoon, there were several lectures, including a lecture by Beto about the project work that we've done at Lobos over the years. The Monterey Herald covered the event, with an [article](#) as well as a supplemental [slideshow](#) which even includes a picture of the Hilton's aeolid on a crab.

## FEATURES

### Oxygen Analysis

by Robert Lee

Much of the equipment, procedures and training that we utilize within BAUE and the GUE community are designed to promote safe diving practices primarily through problem prevention, and if necessary, problem mitigation and resolution. One of the most important, but altogether too often overlooked, pre-dive checks that we are taught to do from the very first GUE class is gas analysis. This very simple check ensures that the gas that we are breathing is in fact what was planned for, and skipping this check can have very severe consequences.



A simple Oxygen analyzer is relatively inexpensive, and should be one of the first purchases that a GUE diver makes. Even if you do not have one already, it is likely that somebody in your team or other divers at the site or on the boat will have one that can be borrowed. It is also important that gas analysis is done on the day of the dive. Often times, dive plans change at the last minute or tanks get moved around and switched, so making a habit of always analyzing your gas on the day of the dive prevents unintentional mixups, which could understandably happen when all of our tanks and equipment look very similar. Properly marking tanks and stage bottles after analysis, and doing a final check of these prior to getting in the water prevents any mixups during dive setup and unpleasant surprises once in the water.

Many of the procedures that one is taught during dive training can become second nature over time, and allow for complacency to set in. However, as we know from accident analysis, most serious dive accidents of trained divers largely arise from human error, with complacency being a chief contributor. Indeed, there have been several serious hyperoxia and hypoxia accidents (some resulting

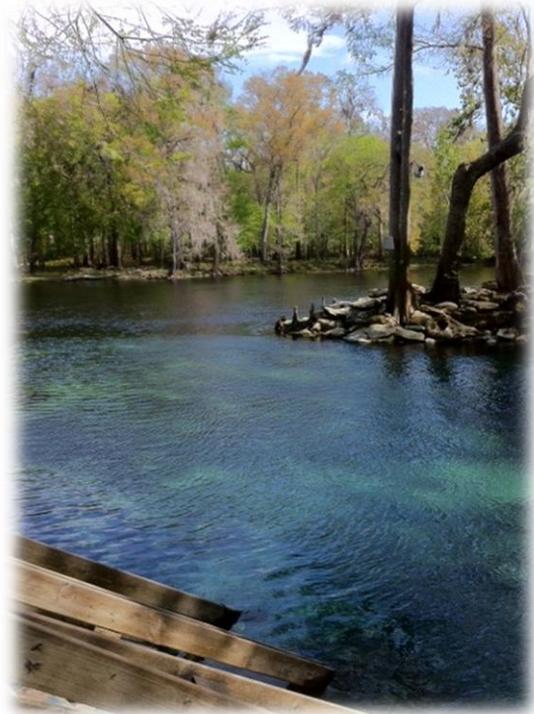
in fatalities) that were due to failing to analyze and thus breathing the wrong gas. By building and maintaining a regular habit of properly analyzing and marking our breathing gas, we can help to continue BAUE's enviable safety record of diving at all levels.

## MEMBER TRAVEL

### Diving Florida Caves in So-So Conditions

by Allison Lee

Rob and I took a quick (five day) trip to Florida in March. Because of excessive rain in the past several months, many of the caves were closed for diving, and several of those that were open had reports of poor conditions. This did not stop us from having a great time, though. Luckily our old standby, the Devil's cave system, was open for diving. So we spent four days diving there. This cave system has a very extensive network of passages, so even though we've dived it dozens of times, we still found a couple new-to-us dives to do in the system, and also repeated a couple of old favorites. We also spent one day diving at Indian Springs with newly-minuted Indian Springs dive guide (and GUE instructor-intern) Meredith Tanguay. Indian Springs is generally considered to be one of the most beautiful cave dives in Florida, though on that day, we found brown water with 10-20 foot visibility (due to the floods). It was an interesting dive, to say the least. But with four other excellent days of diving, we had no complaints about the trip.



## MEMBER NEWS

### Member Statistics

78 paid, 11 honorary

New members:

Paul Festa, Margaret Christopher, Peter Kaprielian,  
Carolina Dratva

### New Certifications/Classes

#### Rec 1

Vanessa Belz

#### Fundies

Peter Kaprielian

Carolina Dratva

Vali Kulachandran

Shane Keil

## BAUE BOARD

Sue Bird  
President  
dolphin@baue.org

Dionna House  
Director  
dhouse@baue.org

Suzanne Baird  
Treasurer and Chief Finance Officer  
Suzanne.Baird@baue.org

Leah Vieta  
Secretary  
leahvieta@baue.org

Ian Lee  
Director  
IanLee1521@baue.org

David Chamberlin  
Director  
mixdiver@baue.org

Robert Lee  
Director  
rhlee@baue.org

Clinton Bauder  
Chief Science Officer  
rule6@baue.org

Alberto Nava  
Chief Planning Officer  
cavediver@baue.org

## Newsletter Contact

Please submit your articles and questions to Allison Lee at [allison.waingold@gmail.com](mailto:allison.waingold@gmail.com)