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# CARLSBAD



The Carlsbad  
**Wine Tour**

**Julie Krone**  
Horse Racing's Most  
Famous Female Jockey

**Pelican's  
Paradise**

• MAY 2008 JUNE •



# Bluewater Jon's Big Back Yard



Photo: Sam Wells

Jon Schwartz seeks adventure in the Pacific's waters.

Carlsbad is a playground. We have amazing, temperate weather, gorgeous lagoons, hiking trails, world-class resorts and attractions, and most importantly, we live on the edge of the continent. The Pacific Ocean is our back yard and what an unbelievable back yard it is. Surfing, swimming, diving, paddling, kayaking and fishing are just a few of the activities we are privileged to have access to. One Carlsbad waterman makes the most of our big back yard and frequently travels to other exotic destinations as well, all with his kayak, cameras and fishing gear in hand.

A Carlsbad resident since 1999, Bluewater Jon (a.k.a. Jon Schwartz) is a husband and father, a teacher in the Oceanside School District and a self-proclaimed "modern day adventurer and thrill seeker." He lives up to this title by pitting himself against the elements of the open ocean and the creatures that swim in it—all from his 14-foot, plastic, sit-on-top kayak. Most

of the time he is out to catch big game fish, something most do from the comforts of a boat. But from his small skiff, armed with specialized fishing gear and often a great camera crew, Bluewater Jon has seen some action.

A few of Jon's adventures include an encounter with a tiger shark off of the Big Island of Hawai'i, which ended safely with the use of a "Shark Shield" (a device designed to irritate the fish through electronic pulses), swimming in open waters to revive an exotic rooster fish, being towed for miles by huge marlin and even falling off his kayak and landing trophy fish while bobbing in the waves.

Bluewater Jon captures these crazy tales with photographs and video. His "fish tales" are all backed up by film and many times, a professional cameraman is along for the ride. Such is the case with "Bluewater Jon and the Giant Tuna," Jon's DVD showcasing what many thought couldn't be done—catching a giant tuna from a kayak. The giant tuna is a fish known to fight hard and dive to the depths and even when it is landed, it has plenty of punch left, making this catch a very perilous one. When it was all said and done, after several attempts and his heart and soul invested, Bluewater Jon brought in the giant tuna—all 111 pounds of it.

And in January of this year, Bluewater Jon had yet another trip of a lifetime, which has gotten heavy media attention in the sport fishing world. From his little kayak, he caught and released eight marlin in the waters 50 miles off of Cabo San Lucas within a two-day period.

But Bluewater Jon's all-around favorite

fish story comes from our local waters. "Maybe the best was not the biggest," Jon commented. "I fished early one morning in La Jolla. I launched in the dark, hooked up with a 28-pound sea bass and was back to school just before the bell rang—no exaggeration!" He continued, "It was a great



Photo: Joe Sala

Schwartz catching a yellow dorado fish off the coast of Carlsbad

day of hands-on science, dissecting and filleting the fish. The kids were incredulous because we had been doing a lot of research on marine life. You should have seen the look on the kids' faces when I showed up with the fish, carrying it by the gills, as all 200 of them are lining up for the morning bell." Although his adventures take him to great places, there really is no place like home for Bluewater Jon. When talking about Carlsbad, he said, "Well, it has the best of all possible worlds—great fishing, surf, excellent places to take my young girls to go play, fabulous restaurants. We can be at the beach one day and the snow the next, and it is so close to the border, too, so we can bop down to Baja, which I do all the time for extended trips to places like San Quintin, five hours south. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else (in the continental U.S.)! Plus, my school room has a panoramic view of the ocean...beat that!"

With great passion for his thrill seeking and the ultimate respect for his catch, Bluewater Jon truly makes the most of our big back yard. To read more about his adventures on the high seas, check out [www.bluewaterjon.com](http://www.bluewaterjon.com). •