



SFRD's new Meeting Place

Don't forget, the General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at



Located on Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111.

Valet parking available.

We meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment.

COME TO THIS MONTH'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIGS AND FIND OUT WHO WON THE "FIND A NEW MEETING PLACE CONTEST"

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Your help is needed! While having access to the strangest information which is floating out there in the world – I often wonder where Pierre picks these things up - I still would like to hear from all of our club members. Share stories from your last diving, kayaking or basket weaving experiences. Share stories from the past, get-togethers, dive book reviews or dive pictures you have taken. All is welcome. No access to email or internet you say? Well, send me a hard copy, there is always room for me to practice my typing skills! Send submissions to 515 Diamond St., SF, CA 94114

DER STAMMTISCH



The Ides of March as well as the madness have come and gone without any appreciable damage being done. Still no report from Bhushan, so I can only speculate how his weekend at Point Lobos came to pass. I'll have to ask him the next time we cross weight belts. On the home front, there's a rumor afoot that along with Freedom Fries and Toast, I'd soon be changing my name from the French form to Peter. No offense to our current vice-president, but I think I'll stick with Pierre. There is some question about the capital of South Dakota changing their name, but they pronounce it more like pear, the fruit then Pierre, French for Petrus, Peter, "The Rock." For those of you who are worried about driving a Chevy, fear not! Louis-Joseph Chevrolet the namesake of one of America's favorite cars was born on Christmas Day, 1878 in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. Next time you see a Chevy or watch a "like a rock" commercial, take a close look at the emblem, then compare it to a map of Switzerland superimposed onto a Swiss flag ...

Back to diving, Gerda and I were on the Cypress Sea on the 22nd, along with Sean, Kathryn and Todd (all new members), Curt, Peter and Armin. It's always a bad sign when you come on board and the hatch to the engine room is open and Captain Phil's down below swinging a wrench and rapidly expanding my "maritime" vocabulary. The two Captains', Phil and Dave, after several attempts involving cheater bars, big wrenches and a couple of busted knuckles, declared that the compressor was "dead on arrival." The crew started counting up the on-board tanks as we headed for the Outer Pinnacles and our first dive. Since Gerda was taking an Advanced Nitrox Class with Captain Phil, Norm agreed to be my buddy. We hooked up with Jessica, an enthusiastic new diver, and got ready to get wet. I jumped in and headed for the anchor chain to wait for my buddies. The current was strong and I had to work hard to make my way forward. When I got to the anchor chain I found two unfamiliar faces hanging on for dear life. It turns out they were from a neighboring dive boat and just happy to have someplace to latch onto.

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Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:
Pierre Hurter
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San Francisco, CA 94114

REEFER RAP

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - New Year's Day Dive - Point Lobos</p> <p>11- Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat</p> <p>15 - General Meeting</p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)</p> <p>15 - Ed Cooper Memorial</p> <p>19 - General Meeting</p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>09 - Pt. Lobos</p> <p>15 - Abalone "Tune-up" Dive Coordinator: Gene Kramer 650.359.2785</p> <p>19 - General Meeting</p> <p>22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>29 & 30 - Pt. Lobos Coordinator: Bhushan Mudbhary 415.225.8653</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>02 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>04 through 06 - Abalone Opener Van Damme State Park Coordinator: Ray Will - (510) 531-5971 or (510) 595-2120</p> <p>16 - General Meeting NEW LOCATION - SINDBAD'S on Pier 2, San Francisco</p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>07 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>21 - General Meeting</p> <p>24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>18 - General Meeting</p> <p>22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>02 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>16 - General Meeting</p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>06 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>20 - General Meeting</p> <p>18 - 20 - Channel Islands – Coordinator: Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784</p>	<p>03 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>06 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>TBD - Alcatraz swim/paddle Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>17 - General Meeting</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>01 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>15 - General Meeting - Officer Nominations !</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>TBD - Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</p> <p>19 - General Meeting - Officer Elections</p> <p>23 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>03 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>17 - General Meeting - Christmas Party</p>



**EVEN MORE NEWS FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT
CZAR**

By Kenneth Gwin

It seems that everybody is happy with the change of meeting place. Nice view. Cozy. Let's try it for a while.

This month we will be having another local dive club sending over their representative to talk to us about sharing adventures' together. This is a diving community, after all.

Susan Carter, from the East Bay Alcosta Divers will be talking about their club's September dive week on Catalina Island. She and an unnamed associate will be showing pictures, and inviting any of us to join them for the best season of Southern California diving.

**LAKE TAHOE DIVE, HIKE, BIKE, CAMP AND WHATEVER.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 5 THRU SUNDAY SEPT. 7.**

It has been a few years since I've organized a dive to Tahoe so here we go again. This is a high altitude dive at D.L Bliss State Park along the famous Rubicon wall. We enter the water at Lester Beach in the park and snorkle out to the wall. It drops down to approximately 900 ft. but we will stay above 60 ft. If you have never dove this, it is definitely worth doing and as for me, I enjoy Tahoe so much that I enjoy doing this at least once a year. The water is fresh, so you will not need as much weight and you won't have to rinse your gear. The water is cold but warmer than the ocean. Full wet suit is still necessary. Because this is high altitude diving, one basic rule is you never go shooting up to the surface. Make your ascent to the surface, twice as long to the surface and make a safety stop at 12-15 ft for a minimum of 3 minutes. I usually come back up and stay in the shallow water diving to accomplish this. The underwater landscape is like another planet and fun cruising along the wall and thru a few swim thrus. I will give out more safety guidelines to those that are going. For the dive, meet at 10 a.m. at Lester beach.

On Sunday, I'm doing a day hike into one of the lakes near Tahoe. It is a lake that a neighbor and friend took me when I was a young teenager that got me excited about hiking and backpacking.

Hope to see you all there. Let me know if you are going.

Norm Knutson
510-520-3186...(cell phone)

Stammtisch – from page 2

The current began to pick up appreciably and people jumping off the boat were shooting straight towards the stern. Jessica decided, quite wisely, to bag the dive. Norm made his way to the anchor line and we pulled our way down, hand over hand all the way. Once we got to the anchor, conditions improved with visibility around 40 feet. We spent our time around the 90-foot mark, exploring every nook and cranny. We managed to miss the anchor line on the way back, but a sturdy kelp stalk served as well. We popped to the surface down current from the boat so we got some more exercise swimming back against the ripping current to the drift line streaming behind the boat. Another bit of hand over hand and I was ready for a break.

On the way to our second dive site we ran into some humpback whales, “humpies.” We lingered for a bit and watched them frolic. After awhile they seemed to get bored with us and the largest of the group waved a fluke or possible it was only a whale’s equivalent of the middle finger and they disappeared. Our second dive was at Hopkins Reef. I’ve only explored this site once before and I had like it. Going down the anchor line was like swimming through cold pea soup. Once we got to the anchor Norm and I drifted past huge metridium fields, saw several large lemon nudibranches as well as a huge whelk. The visibility was between 10 and 15 feet, not great, but still better than a day at the office.



The other day, April 1st, I received a tongue in check e-mail concerning the club’s “senior discount” policy. I answered in a humorous vein, but in all seriousness we have a tremendous amount of experience in the club, we should take advantage of that store of knowledge. When Gerda and I joined the club we had less than a dozen dives under our belts. We wanted to learn, to dive, and to enjoy the sea around us. The club gave us a place to do that, with people who had a wealth of experience and we are still learning. So what’s the club’s “senior discount” policy? We don’t discount experience, we appreciate it.



Friday saw Gerda and I playing hooky from work as we piled tent and cooler into our car and made our way north to Van Damme State Park. Taking no chances with the weather, Gerda threw in our XtraTuff boots, wet weather gear, all the fixin’s for a downpour. Well for those of you who checked the weather reports and then decided not to come, you stuck your thumb in your eye, it was gorgeous. It took us most of the day to wander up the coast from our place, probably had something to do with the many wineries along highway 128. Two favorites are the Yorkville Winery, where we picked up a great semillion as well as a petite verdot, which was great for that night’s jambalaya, and Navarro, where we also stopped to restock our selection of Gewürztraminer. A case just doesn’t last all that long. We also picked up a magnum, just because the bottle looked so elegant.

Saturday morning we decided we were too lazy to cook, so after

a couple of cups of cowboy coffee we headed north to Fort Bragg and “Eggheads” a local breakfast and lunch place featuring a Wizard of Oz theme. The breakfast special was homemade biscuits and gravy with salsa and eggs “the way you like them.” Fortified with a couple more cups of their “robust” coffee we went to explore “Glass Beach.” We had heard about the place before, but had never visited. You drive through Fort Bragg, hang a left on Elm Street, just before the local Drive-In burger place and park where the road ends. This used to be a dump, right where the surf meets the shore. A lot of bottles were tossed here and now the rounded and polished pieces of glass bring squeals of delight to adult and child alike. That’s the way of life, a couple of broken bottles by the side of the road and you think slob, hundreds of thousands and you put up a sign, provide parking and it becomes a destination.

In between our archeological rummaging we had a brew at the Fort Bragg Brewing Company, where we discovered that Monday, April 7 marks the 70th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition, the 21st Amendment! As a reminder of the outside world there were simultaneous “peace” and “support our troops” rallies along Main Street. Sometime amidst all of this activity, Curt managed to come by the campsite twice, like ships in the night we missed each other both times.



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Stammtisch – from page 5

Saturday night our friends Noriko and Brian and Michiyo and Jun rolled into camp and we started the festivities. Curt provided the abalone, which along with the steaks, oysters, lamb chops and side dishes made for a royal feast. Sunday morning I woke up to the sound of rain on our tent and a stomach still struggling with the feast of the night before. I was glad that Gerda had packed our rain gear as we struck camp and headed, once more to “Eggheads” for a second helping of biscuits and gravy and a couple of cups of shade grown, fair traded, PC Thanksgiving brand coffee. We were ready to hunt for rainbows.

Conditions along the coast have been pretty good lately, this coming weekend might be a good time to take a trip to Gerstle Cove and enjoy the north coast and do a little diving.

In the words of Lloyd Bridges “Skin diving is fun and adventure for young and old, but it can be dangerous, so know the sport well and don’t take any chances. Be with you next month for another exciting Sea Hunt.”

**SOME TRIMIXED UP
DIVING WITH CAP PHIL
AND HOW I RESCUED THE
DEPT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY.
APRIL 2003
by Curt Degler**

Inspired over a year ago by the deep diving adventures of Reef Diver Ken Gwin, I decided that my book of diving experiences needed an additional chapter entitled; Trimix! So I bought my first dry suit, after 25 years of diving cold and wet, and logged the requisite 50 dives I needed to be adequately skilled in its usage. Drysuits are required in current

evolved cold water deep diving circles: they provide back up buoyancy and keep you warmer on the long, slow, halting trips back to the surface. I already had the Prereq Dive Certs: so-called Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures but not much more could I claim other than the plastic cards since the courses were inadequately taught and lead. But who to learn Trimix from?

The choice of instructional agencies in Trimix in the Bay area is limited to either TDI or GUE. While the Global Underwater Explorers have contributed very heavily to the development of safer deep diving practices among the technical dive community, they have a Weltanschauung philosophically incompatible to mine. That leaves Technical Diving International, a lousy organization whose only redeeming asset besides a plastic card printer is this local instructor who goes by the name of Phil Sammet, “Capt’n Phil to those familiar with the Cypress Sea.

I’ve had the great fortune to know Phil since the early 80s and a more intrepid, skilled and hilarious instructor is not to be found in the watery reaches of planet Earth.

After a couple of classroom sessions in San Jose I met Phil at Monterey on Monday March 17 and demonstrated my lift bag launching, reel laying, deco hanging, air sharing and valve shutting skills at the Coast Guard harbor. Not too bad but not perfect either. On Tuesday we made our first deep dive in Monterey Bay - 150ft for 20 minutes, using just one decompression gas mixture of 50% O2 along with 20% Helium mix in the back gas to fight off the intense narcotic raptures afflicting deep air divers.

Most deep diving I had done up to this point was structured on the idea that as soon as you made

your maximum depth you immediately started a very slow ascent or “bounced”, limiting or minimizing decompression times. But this was to be different. Capt’n Phil, my fellow student Dale Swift and I descended simultaneously as quickly as we could clear our ears until we “fell” rapidly to the bottom where the anchor lay at 143ft. And there we stayed or a little deeper for the 20-minute timed duration of the dive, laying a reel line from the anchor around the invertebrate studded rocks. The visibility was stygian in the shallows and worse on the bottom. Definitely the dive zone where the “willies” emerge but I succeeded in suppressing the urge to scream and even enjoyed the intense gothic quality of the experience. Not for you tropical diver types at 48F.

Wednesday was supposed to be a 165Ft deep dive at Point Lobos but the ocean didn’t agree so back to the murky bay. This time we strapped on two deco bottles, one pure O2 for 20 ft and 50% O2 to start the degassing at 70Ft and 20% HE in the back gas. This time the willies decided to bother someone else. I was really liking it! Darkness Darkness. Hoooooooooooo.

Thursday – Ahh! The ocean decided to cooperate today. Set up our gear like yesterday, and launched at Pt Lobos, propelled in Phil’s screamingly fast twin engined custom RIB to Outer Blue fish Cove where the Great Pinnacle rises from 170ft. We anchored in 100 ft of water to start. First just incredible visibility with the descent to the anchor just like flying and then to the edge of the wall where Phil threw the reel over the wall with the line streaming behind. We then descended another 7 stories onto this gin clear sand-floored

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**Trimix & Homeland Security –
from page 6**

amphitheater with the 170 ft submerged seascape rising around us. Awesome I'd call it. And an experience you could appreciate as the brain defogging quality of helium is just remarkable. It was no more rapturous than 85Ft, and the regulator didn't rattle despite the huge volume of gas molecules passing through it since HE is so light. And then breathing pure O2 for 15 minutes at 20 ft scours almost all of the nitrogen and helium molecules out your system. I felt noticeably more alert and energetic after this dive than I have felt on many other sport deep dives to depths far shallower and for much less bottom time.

That evening, back at the Coast Guard Breakwater in Monterey, where I was trailer camping for the week, I was approached while putting my dive gear away by one of the ubiquitous uniformed Coast Guard seamen. He asked me if I was finished diving for the day and explained that the 47-ft CG lifeboat, while engaged in an exercise with a CG helicopter

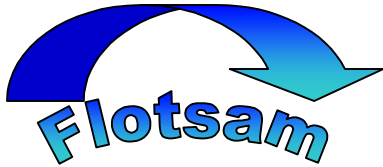
dropping simulated emergency equipment by parachute to disabled vessels, had accidentally ran over the submerged parachute. Wrapped tightly around the prop and shaft housing, the lifeboat was out of commission and had to be towed back to its berth. Furthermore the CG diver was on leave and the vessel was on call. Only a few femto seconds were needed to decide, "I can help" I said. "Can you be ready in 15 minutes" the Guardsmen asked. Although almost always the last diver to be ready, I resolutely agreed and set to it. I slipped into my underwater and drysuit and then Dales showed up and volunteered a tank and old regulator plus I had a single tank BC and a heavy weightbelt around. Just as I was ready, the CG golf cart was there and sped me unchallenged by the unsmiling armed sentry. Gathered around the non-functioning 47ft lifeboat (goes out in all weather except Hurricanes and is designed to safely roll in big seas and continue on) was the entire CG station, all anxious and chagrined since this was a serious error on the part of the boat crew and a blemish on the station's readiness

report. Quickly checking my gear, I strode off the pier only to find my inflator hose trapped behind me and I stuck on the surface. A little help from Dale and I was back to the mission, if a little less professional. Dive light (it was dark already) and EMT snips in hand all the time filmed by the CG submersible video camera on a stick that permanently recorded my critical volunteer actions on behalf of the DHS (Dept of Homeland Security). Whew! Would I come through?

Yup. Looks like a parachute wrapped around a prop. Here a snip, there a snip, and one more snip and I surfaced to announce the prop and shaft were "free and clear". All guardsmen assembled repeated my words and breathed a unanimous sigh. Semper Paratus!

Postscript: The Guard gave me A Ball Cap with the station and Service Insignia, a frameable letter, an invitation to ride on their lifeboat and the parachute. And Capt'n Phil certified me to dive Trimix.





Anthony's Key Resort Announces a New Artificial Reef

The owners of Anthony's Key Resort along with other local dive operators have added a new attraction to Roatan, Honduras. The sinking of the 300-foot *Odyssey* off the north coast of Roatan gives the area one of the Caribbean's largest shipwrecks.



The ship, which measures 85 feet from keel to mast and 300 feet from bow to stern, is a 12-minute boat ride from the resort. The top of the mast rests in 30 feet of water with the stern at 112 feet. The wreck promises some great adventure for all levels of diving.

Naked- Air - Nudists set to dive Cancun

A Houston-based travel agency, Castaways Travel specializes in arranging travel for peoples who like to vacation in the buff. So it seemed only natural that they would offer a clothing-optional flight for travelers who want to get naked as soon as their vacations begin.

Castaways Travel has chartered a Boeing 727-200 for a round-trip flight from Miami to Cancun, departing May 3 and returning May 10, for 170 passengers, most of whom will be headed to the El Dorado Resort & Spa for a nude vacation.

The flight will make a few adjustments for the passengers.

The cabin will be kept a bit warmer than the usual icebox temperature of airlines. To avoid spills and McDonald's style law suites, no coffee will be served during the flight. The captain and crew will remain in uniform for the flight

Nudist-related travel is one of the fastest-growing segments of the travel industry. For those who might be interested, at press time, there were still some seats remaining on the "Naked-Air" flight from Miami to Cancun. The question I have, is how much is the PADI specialty?

Power Plant Closures could kill Florida's manatees



Florida's endangered manatees could be further threatened if the state's aging coastal power plants are closed, eliminating the heated water discharges that the lumbering mammals use for warmth in the winter, scientists said.

It turns out that Manatees don't like the cold found in some parts of the state, they need water temperatures of at least 68 degrees to survive. The mammals spend the winters near springs or power plants located near rivers or bays where the water stays around 70 degrees year-round.

Poisonous Puffer Fish Meal kills four in central Vietnam

Four adults died and two children were hospitalized after eating poisonous puffer fish in central Vietnam.

Dozens of people have died in recent years after eating the puffer fish, also known as the globefish, which contains deadly

toxins in its skin, blood, liver kidney and intestines. If the fish is not handled properly when cooked, the toxins can cause paralysis and heart failure.

Whale Meat health risks - high levels of toxins

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare researchers tested levels of PCBs and methyl mercury in the muscles, fat and internal organs of seven types of whales whose capture is permitted under international law.

The survey also found that about 10 percent of the whale meat on the market is mislabeled. In some cases, meat from Baird's beaked whale was labeled as having come from minke whales.

Health ministry officials will join hands with the fisheries agency to ensure that the industry labels the whale meat correctly.

French Submarine plugs holes in the wreck of the Prestige

A French submarine is being used to plug the holes in the hull of the sunken oil tanker *Prestige*, which has been leaking oil since mid-November.

The bright yellow mini-submarine *Nautile*, better known for having discovered the wreck of the *Titanic*, has carried out eight dives to the *Prestige*. The wreck lies in two pieces approximately 2 miles apart and almost 11,500 feet deep.

France recently took over the coordination of the oil-spill clean up from Spain. It has so far budgeted an initial 52 million dollars to fund the operation and has launched a criminal investigation to establish responsibility for the sinking.

Atlantic Sharks in steep decline

Shark populations in the northwest Atlantic have plunged by more than half since scientists

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Flotsam – from page 8

began keeping track in 1986. Some species such as the hammerhead and great whites have fallen as much as 75 percent.

The research was conducted by Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The researchers blame the decline to intensifying commercial and recreational fishing for sharks.

Sharks, as well as skates and rays, take much longer to reach sexual maturity, as much as 12 to 18 years for some species. They also produce fewer offspring than bony fish, as few as one or two live-born pups per female. Their slow rate of reproduction would slow any potential recovery, even if the fisheries pressure could be reduced.

Giant Jelly Fish invade Tokyo Harbor

In recent weeks the *Eh Chee Zen* jellyfish have been found floating in Tokyo's harbor. The jellyfish, which can reach weights in excess of 150 pounds, are brown and when they sting fish the flesh turns pink and is inedible.

The jellyfish were last encountered on Japan's eastern coast some 44 years ago. Marine biologists think the jellyfish most likely swam north following the coastline, carried by currents.

Age no barrier to Safe Diving

Duke University has been conducting research into the carbon dioxide retention in health divers of different ages. It's conclusion; age presents no significant disadvantage.

The study utilized two groups of healthy volunteer divers; one group was in the 19 to 39 year range, the other group was aged 58 to 74. The researchers simulated dives in a hyperbaric chamber while monitoring levels

of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the bloodstream.

Carbon dioxide retention is used as an indicator of the body's ability to cope with the physiological stresses of diving, specifically breathing gases under pressure. The older group performed very similarly in the exercised to the younger control group.

Nikes Drifting towards Alaska

The three 40-foot containers that cargo ship lost during a December storm off Cape Mendocino are back in the news. Turns out that the containers were carrying an estimated 5,500 pairs of shoes each.

Thousands of pairs of Nike's are washing up on beaches from Washington State to Alaska. So keep your eyes open, you might get lucky and find a matching pair.

Navy Dolphins in the Gulf

The U.S. Navy sent trained dolphins into the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr to help clear the Persian Gulf of mines and clear the waterway of explosives and open the way for cargo ships and humanitarian aid.

The navy has been using dolphins since 1965, when they were used to protect U.S. troops and ships in Vietnam. Dolphins were also used in the first Gulf War. The dolphins are part of the Navy Special Clearance Team One, a team of Navy SEALs (the human kind) and Marines.

Sewer Diving in Charleston

Charleston, South Carolina has a problem, it's sewers, some of them 100 feet beneath the city's streets are old and crumbling away. To keep from having an environmental disaster, divers patrol the sewers looking for blockages and reinforcing weak spot with steel plates.



AN ALTERNATE AB OPENER

by Kenneth Gwin

Saw many smiling faces over the weekend at the North Coast Spring Season Abalone Roundup and Seafood Rodeo.

But, what great club members we are.

After talking about the Van Damme opening weekend campout (and all that rah-rah-club-team-spirit landing on deaf ears stuff), Gene Kramer and I elected to go for a Saturday one day dive at Fort Ross instead.

It's a much shorter drive and there are still plenty of abalone along the Sonoma coast. (Of course, those were the main and contributing factors in our decision, not just outright laziness.) I was happy to provide some of my gnarly brown foamed coffee for the drive up and Gene was happy to do the driving. (It's a great world, isn't it?)

Saturday was sunny with breezes coming up in the afternoon, but easy entries with very modest wave action, okay viz, 48-50 degree water, sparse kelp, and grand ocean vistas with blue skies, picturesque cliffs, and warm golden sunlight.

Where we were diving, there

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Ab Opener – from page 9

were good numbers of lings and promising numbers of baby abalone, bright colored greenlings, and a few large blues. Of course, there were also plenty of legal sized abs and we easily got our limits of the 8 1/2-9" variety.

It was more than a nice enough day to pleasantly loose ones self diving, dropping down on some shallow reefs, finding them busy with sea life and a rebirth of kelp. For the freediver, these are just momentary glimpses in tiny packets of time. Each dive is literally just a breathless little peek and an insight into something bigger, quietly observed while floating weightlessly in ones own good time.

Somehow, diving always stays in my head afterwards. It is both

mellowing and invigorating. Easy freediving on a day like this should put anybody's head in a great place.

We also stopped by the CenCal picnic and saw many more happy faces sharing in this celebration of this unofficial end of winter and hope for a new year of opportunity and adventure. There was a beautiful picnic area carpeted with a green lawn and a great weathered rose bush pink with bloom as the centerpiece. People, of course, were cleaning and preparing abalone. But, there were tables heaped with salads, sausages, marinated wahoo, desserts, and snacks' something for everybody.

Closest to my heart, however, was a mixed case of the famous Chateau Galarneau (Mis en Bouteille au Ghetto), a standout in the Oakland garage wine category. (These wines were

made by our own Bill Galarneau, performing his duties as CenCal Representative and sommelier.)

Steve Campi (the CenCal President) wandered off along the cliffs taking pictures of wildflowers. What a nice day for an ab opener.

Again, all of this is just another way of saying it, [and I'll borrow a quote from Michael Chabon and E. Peavine's diminutive treatise, ("How to Catch Lightning and Smoke,")] that diving must be (like baseball) "nothing but a great slow contraption for getting you to pay attention to the cadence of a summer day."

Sunday, (they say) the weather didn't hold up as well. We had it all planned.



**CHANNEL ISLANDS TRIP
ON THE DIVE BOAT "PEACE"**

When: August 17, 18, 19-2003 (Sun, Mon, Tue)
Destination: Southern Channel Islands (Including San Clemente)
Departure: Departs 11:59PM on 8-16-02 from Ventura, Ca
Cost: \$335 (Includes fuel surcharge for San Clemente)

If you want to go on the trip, please do the following:

- 1) Mark the dates on your calendar/planner/PDA.
- 2) Contact Jim Vallario (415-566-0784) and tell him you want a spot on the boat.
- 3) Send a check for \$100 (made out to San Francisco Reef Divers) to our Treasurer (Pierre Hurter).
- 4) On 7-01-03, send the remainder (\$235) to Pierre.

NEW MEMBER

**DIONNE HOUSE
KATHRYN WELDS
SEAN MURPHY**

WELCOME!



The San Francisco Reef Divers is a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. The San Francisco Reef Divers general meetings are open to the public and are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Sinbad's, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111 (For driving directions and a map for this location, visit our club web site: <http://www.sfreedivers.org/>.)

We highly encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abalone Marine Resource Council (AMRC) | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | <u>10</u> |

Show your support for all four! \$60

Name:	_____				
Address:	_____				
City:	_____	State:	_____	Zip:	_____
Home Phone:	(____) _____	Work Phone:	(____) _____		
Email:	_____				
Diving Certification Agency:	_____	Level:	_____	Number:	_____
SFRD Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> New member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
Are you a member of Divers Alert Network (DAN)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Please select the method of delivery of your monthly club newsletter (Choose one):					
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will download the newsletter via the Internet from the SFRD website (default)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want the newsletter mailed to my home address				

Please make checks payable to "San Francisco Reef Divers" and mail to: Pierre Hurter, SFRD Treasurer, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". The General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Sinbad's, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS
Reef Divers Times
C/O Gerda Hurter
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San Francisco, CA 94114