



## INTO THE ALOHA SPIRIT

by Loretta Lowe



In January, I was lucky enough to attend a work-related conference in Honolulu. Naturally, I didn't think twice about bringing my dive gear and tacking on a few extra days! Like most mainlanders, I'm easily confused as to which island is which and had to do a little research.

The island of Oahu (home to the cities of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor) ranks third largest in size, but is number one in the tourist trade. Busy with the conference, I didn't get a chance to do any diving here. I did manage to throw on a mask and snorkel one afternoon and jump in the water off the infamous Waikiki Beach (images of Elvis singing Blue Hawaii running through my mind). Nothing but sand really, but rather good clarity considering the high-rise hotel row that borders it.

After the conference, I invited two people, who had never been snorkeling before, to join me in checking out Hanauma Bay. The bay, formed by an extinct volcano, is a 20-minute taxi ride south of Honolulu. Despite the hordes of tourists and tour buses it is actually a quite beautiful beach. The beach is beautiful - underwater is another story. Masses of dead coral and a few brave sergeant major fish gasping for life. It was very disappointing and certainly not the "lush coral reef and abundant marine life" so exalted. Our driver explained that they stopped allowing the fish to be fed, so there weren't very many. I was also told that the outer reef is quite beautiful, but due to the strong winter winds I was unable to snorkel through the narrow channel to get there. My two friends were having a precarious time trying to learn to breath through snorkels. This seems so natural to me - I forget it might be a challenge for others. As I looked around the bay I noticed hundreds of novice snorklers standing on the coral, kicking up sand and generally having a rough time of it. Good thing that they come here to this famous bay of dead coral instead of the more pristine coves.

The next day, we hopped a flight to The Big Island. That's what it's called, although it's officially the island of Hawaii. (like New York, New York, I guess).

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## APRIL ENTERTAINMENT

**Come see how Nature deals with 55 years of radioactive metal.**

Last year I went on a trip to the South Pacific. Part of my fascination with this region was (obviously) the spectacular warm water diving. But, only a little over fifty years ago, this whole area was a focus of international turmoil. It was big enough to call a World War.

There is a lot of wreckage left over from this war still in existence. Some of it is scattered all over the South Pacific. They are still discovering long lost ships or planes. Amazingly, they have found two significant and diveable wrecks just in the last couple of years. All of these wrecks died a natural death, either at the hands of circumstance and bad weather, human error, or the destruction of war. But, World War II ended in a most historic way. Man had discovered how to unleash the power of the atom.

We've all read about it.

We've seen the pictures.

After the war, the United States government proceeded to experiment with man made structures and living animals in test explosions.

These are not natural deaths.

In July of 1946, the United States detonated two atomic bombs at Bikini Atoll. Besides blowing every living thing off the tiny bit of land there, they sunk a fleet of ships. The USS Saratoga, an 880' aircraft carrier sits upright on the bottom at 190,' intact. The battleship Nagato, once the pride of the Japanese Navy lies here, capsized in 170' of water.

It can now be visited by divers.

A friend has offered for our viewing, a tape shot there last year on a week long dive trip.

**President's Corner**

By Pierre Hurter



April is upon us, clocks are set ahead an hour, allergy sufferers are in full bloom, the IRS deadline beckons and organizations large and small issue their quarterly reports. Going over our roster and Bill's treasury accounts, I see that we are doing well, or to use a technical term I learned from Jim Vallario, "we are fat," or is that phat? In looking at the rooster I note that we have a little over ninety paid members (not counting couples). In looking at past roosters, one hundred seems to be the point of equilibrium for us. Some years we trend a bit higher others a bit lower, but we always seem to end up hovering at one hundred members. This seems to be where we are comfortable. Most importantly, we seem to be able to attract new members along the way. Lately we seem to have assumed a distinctively international flair. Hopefully we will all learn something new from each other, even if it's not dive related.

On the waterfront, Gerda and I spent Saturday at the Breakwater for a couple of shakedown dives. Our original plan had been to meet Frank and Kathy and take a ride on Franks boat. Alas it was not meant to be; Kathy came down with a cold, and had to bow out. Gerda, having had her brand new dry suit hanging in the garage for several weeks couldn't take the wait anymore. Her dry suit has been christened; it fits and didn't leak, what more could you ask for? I got to try out my new toys as well, a couple of Kirby-Morgan second stages hooked to my Atomic first stage.

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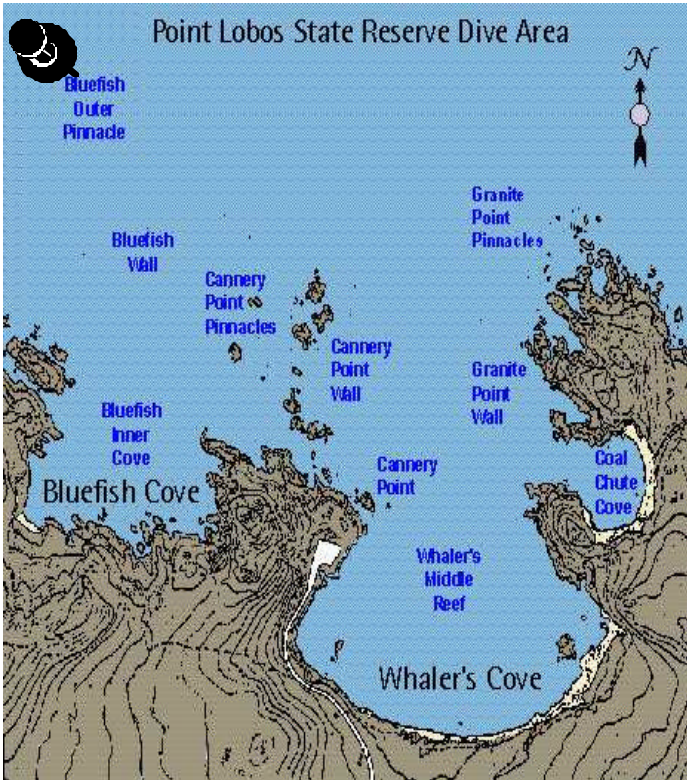


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## REEFERS RAP

<b>JANUARY 02</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
<p>01 - <i>New Year's Day Dive</i> Point Lobos</p> <p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> New Location: BOAT HOUSE</p>	<p>16 - <i>President's Day Dive</i> Coordinator: Peter White (415) 775-2052</p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive - FULL</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
<p>12 - <i>14Abalone Opener at Russian Gulch</i> Coordinator: Ray Will (510) 531-5971</p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i> <b>BOATHOUSE</b></p> <p>18 - <i>Point Lobos Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Frank Onstine (707) 668-1671</p>	<p>15 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>	<p>19 - <i>General Meeting &amp; Swap Meet</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Closer</i></p>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>27 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>	<p>18 - <i>20 Channel Island Trip</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>21 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Opener at Salt Point</i> Coordinator: Pam Radkey (510) 527-5282</p>	<p>18 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Valario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Alcatraz swim/paddle</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
<p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 2 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> <b>2003 OFFICERS ELECTIONS</b> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>24 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday. - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</i></p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Closer</i> Coordinator: Robert Miché (415) 661-5540</p> <p>TBD - <i>Salmon Swim</i> Coordinator: Frank King</p>	<p>18 - <i>Christmas Party</i> at the BOATHOUSE !!!</p>

## Reefer Rap ... need to know more ...



### Boat Dive April 18th

Frank Onstine is coordinating a Point Lobos Dive in conjunction with the Cypress Sea. The dive is planned for Thursday, April 18, and works as follows:

- Call Cypress Charters (408.244.4433) to put your name on the list.
- Call (831.624.8413), e-mail ([ptlobos@mnbay.net](mailto:ptlobos@mnbay.net)) or go online (<http://pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us/scuba/divereserv.html>) Point Lobos State Park to make your reservation.
- Call Cypress Charters and confirm your reservation with a credit card.
- The Cypress Sea will load divers at 9:30 am, with all their gear on, as they swim out to the boat from Whaler's Cove. From there it's off to Bluefish cove and two great dives.

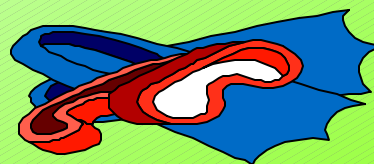
The price for this trip is \$75 per diver, plus the cost of the Point Lobos reservation and parking fee. Make sure you **bring your C-Card**, you won't get into the park without one. If you have any questions, call or e-mail Frank at 707.668.1671 or [franko@humboldt1.com](mailto:franko@humboldt1.com).



### JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> 2002

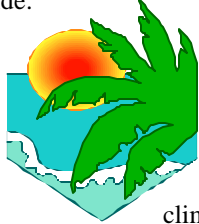
*Garage full? Closet overflowing? Are you tripping over your dive gear when you navigate in the wee hours of the morning to clean up pet up-chuck? Would you like to trade your Mike Nelson twin hose regulator for a genuine Soviet Navy Rebreather? Or would you just like to have a Mike Nelson twin hose regulator?*

*If you answered YES to any of the above and related questions make sure to show up at the June General Meeting featuring a SFRD Swap Meet*



**Aloha – from page 1**

The Big Island is home to the city of Kailua on the Kona Coast and the city of Hilo on the other side.



Hollywood likes to use this island a lot because of the diversity of climates and variety of fauna. Flying into the Keahole Airport is like flying into a lunar landscape. Miles and miles of black lava rock as far as the eye can see. We drove up the coast to a high-end resort where we snorkeled in one of the most beautiful coves I have ever seen. The colorful tropical fish, lush coral heads, curious eels and the clicking squeals of nearby dolphin (never saw them - only heard them) was magical. It's purported that manta rays come in to frolic along the shore and eat the plankton that is attracted to the large mounted lights that shine over the water at night. Unfortunately, they never came in during our stay.

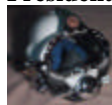
The next morning, I had arranged for a boat dive with Jack's Diving Locker out of Kailua. Getting up early made me think of the dawn patrol, rising to drive to Monterey. We launched on a "six-pack" boat (six divers, one dive master and one captain) out of the Kaulia-Kona Harbor where we spotted a humpback whale slapping it's tale on the water about 200 yards off the harbor entrance. What a site, and why did I forget my camera? Ten dramatic strikes on the water and it descended not to be seen again. We motored a few miles north near the airport and descended onto a lovely reef about 70 feet deep. It was a rocky, colorful bottom with butterflyfish, trumpetfish, tiger cowries, wrasses amidst 75 degree water

and 100+ feet visibility. Before the dive, the captain and dive master decided rather than anchor, a drift dive in one direction would allow us to get the most out of the dive. With a dive master, it was "follow the leader" diving, but his pace was good and the he was not too authoritative. As people started to get low on air he sent them up to the surface for the boat to pick them up. Another diver and I were better on air consumption, so we stayed below for another 15 minutes. When we ascended, we noticed that the other divers were still floating, waiting for the boat. The dive master swam to a nearby dive boat to radio our missing captain. We all floated on the surface for another 15 - 20 minutes musing about our situation - luckily the land was close enough to swim to if need be and there was enough boat traffic that we didn't feel lost at sea. Finally our captain arrived and sheepishly explained that he thought the current was going in the other direction.

We made sure the boat was anchored for our second dive at a lovely spot called the eel garden, where we poked around at 50 feet looking at a diverse variety of eels hiding in the rocks. The week ended with a spectacular excursion to see the lava flow at the active Kilauea Volcano and a strong desire to return to the Big Island for further exploration. Lava tubes, arches, tunnels and walls, seeing the manta rays frolic and hearing the humpback whales sing. Aloha!



**President – from page 2**



It's an interim set-up, I plan to hook them up to an

Apeks DS4 and see how that works out.

As Gerda would say, I can't ever leave well enough alone.

The diving was actually quite nice, the visibility wasn't all that brilliant, between 15 to 20 feet at best, but the jetty was teeming with fish and a jellyfish display to rival the one at the aquarium.

We saw the usual brown jellies (chisaora), purple jellyfish (pelagia noctiluca), moon jellyfish (aurelia aurita) as well as a fair number of comb jellies (beroc) scooting through the water as if they did it for pure enjoyment. We also saw a good size lingcod and best of all a California scorpionfish (scorpaenaguttala). We had two good dives and then ran into Michael Witt and his dog, great pooch, but he's a non-diver, too bad.

On the news front, this time from New Zealand, it looks as if the world's largest octopus was caught in a trawler's nets near the Chatam Islands. The specimen had been badly damaged, but was still a big octopus. The trawler probably hooked the giant calamari at a depth of 3000 feet, it has been identified as a Halipron Atalanticus, a bright red species and as the name implies more usually a frequenter of the Atlantic Ocean. Alive the octopus would have been some 13 feet long and probably weighted between 155 and 165 pounds. How would you like to see that come out of a crevice during a night dive?

Closer to home, it looks as if we may soon have cruise ships in Monterey. For those of you who have been in places like Cozumel when the ships come in, you may soon have the same experience right in your back yard. Princess Cruise Lines "Star Princess" scheduled for May 7, Royal

**Continued page 6**

**President – from page 5**

Caribbean “Grandeur of the Sea” September 17 and Crystal Cruises “Harmony” on October 9. Look at the bright side; the market for Thomas Kinkaid paintings is down so “T” shirts to ocean going tourists will have to take up the slack in the local economy. Besides “gray water” and plastic garbage bags bobbing in the surf are a small price to pay for economic vitality. Time will tell, but if history is any guide, Monterey will sell it’s soul to the cruise lines the way they sold Cannery Row to the “T” shirt vendors. This from a city that is offended when divers flash their buns or load gear in a tourist zone.

On a positive note, our very own Curt Degler has been appointed as a director for the Sonoma County Abalone Network (S.C.A.N.). He will be replacing Jerel Culver who moved out of the area. Both the Reefdivers and S.C.A.N. have nominated Curt to the local regional working group for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). For more information concerning S.C.A.N. see [www.abalonenetwork.org](http://www.abalonenetwork.org), or ask Curt.

April is turning into another great month for diving. We have the abalone opener organized by Ray Will, a Point Lobos dive brought to you by Frank Onstine and last but not least our monthly meeting at the Boathouse. For those who haven’t been to a meeting lately, drop in, the food is OK, the beer great and Mike, the waiter, is a character who has to be experienced to be appreciated. So go pay your taxes, grab your fins and get wet!!!



**DIVING IN KUWAIT**

By Sgt. Todd Lefemine  
([todd.lefemine@us.army.mil](mailto:todd.lefemine@us.army.mil))

The Dive Operator was BBR Dive Center in Saliwa, Kuwait ([bbrdive@nnc.moc.kw](mailto:bbrdive@nnc.moc.kw)) and the boat ride to the reef was short, it was low tide when we boarded the boat. Air temperature was around 80 Deg F, clear skies. The reef was marked with buoys around the edge, we tied up next to one of the buoys and got ready for the dive. As right now the weather is the best this time of year, next month the air temperature will begin to rise as high as 120 deg F, so the water temp was mild and we all wore 3X2 full wetsuits, with a hood and gloves and this was adequate for the 68 deg F water temp. The reef top was at 10 to 15 feet of water, and the deepest surrounding the reef was 25 to 30 feet of water. The visibility was poor due to plankton, reminded me a lot of Monterey diving during the plankton blooms, the vis seemed 15 feet at the beginning of the dive and dropped to 5 to 10 towards the end of the dive. However it did not ruin a great dive, upon descent the reef was noticeably, full of life. Most impressive was the brain coral and moose horn coral. There was an abundance of small tropical fish, but the two cuttle fish that we encountered were the most memorable. The current was strong and the dive master considered a drift dive, but when we surfaced far from the boat down current he was happy to pick us up by boat. When I asked the dive master the name of the dive spot; he said they call it oddly enough Cuttle-Fish Reef. The dive operator was excellent and offered a full service shop and classes, however it is slightly more expensive than in the states. Air fills were half of what is paid in

Monterey, fortunately for me the whole trip was paid for by the Military Morale funds.



*Sgt. Todd Lefemine, of the 184<sup>th</sup> Infantry, is a member of the Army Reserve, and is currently in Kuwait for a period of five months and will return in June. Todd, Armin Luggin’s regular Dive Buddy, was able to enjoy some diving while serving in Kuwait. Looks like we are getting quite international, with articles from all over the world. Many thanks to Todd, for the report. We wish him a good time as well as a safe return to the US.*

**REBREATHER DIVING IN ‘LAC LEMAN’**

By Armin Luggen

Well here is my next story about diving in Switzerland, as promised. Will I ever get tired, of going diving in Switzerland? Well, I hope not, but it sure does extend the travel time to the dive site. A regular trip to Monterey just does not do it anymore.

In Switzerland you always will be ‘on time’, drink ‘real’ milk, eat ‘real’ chocolates whenever you please and if lucky, stock up on some things with a numbered account.

So on Friday, March 15 of this year I was meeting up with Malek, a Dive Instructor from the Dive Store “Le Scaphe” in Echallens, in the French part of Switzerland. The plan was, to go diving in “Lac Lemman” or better known as Lake Geneva. Of course the whole deal was done

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**Rebreather – from page 6**

in French and I had better listen twice, being a little rusty in that language.

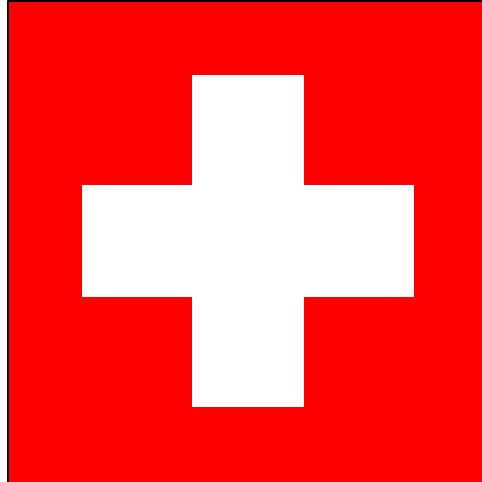
Malek awaited me already at the dive store and had also prepared all equipment for the scheduled dive. Since the water temperature was 4 degrees Celsius, (39 Fahrenheit), I definitely wanted to dive dry and had to get fitted appropriately. Under suit, dry suit, gloves, fins, weight belt, and last but not least a Drager Dolphin Rebreather.

While Daniel, the owner of the dive store, packed everything in a container, Malek got the Oxygen analyzer ready and we started to check the percentage of each 4 liter bottle of Nitrox. The first one measured at 60.5 % and the second at 51.2 %. Wow, luckily I had just completed my Advanced Nitrox class the weekend before with Pierre in Monterey. At least it felt more comfortable to know more about the pro and cons about those mixes. Once we finished determining the Nitrox mixes, both percentages were logged and signed for.

Now the real fun started. Malek pulled a three page laminated checklist from the container containing the instructions for the use of the Rebreather. Every point on this list had to be rigorously checked and we ended up taking the whole thing apart and reassembling it again, while working through each step of the checklist. Positive as well as negative pressure was tested and all connections and seals were checked for working condition.

One of the most important aspect of the Drager Dolphin Rebreather was to connect the right valve for the chosen mixture. There are four settings that may be used. 32%, 40%, 50% and 60%. Each

connection creates a precise flow for each mixture of gas. A wrong connection to one of the valves can create a hazard. Well, the time passed and we covered a lot of ground, but one task was still ahead of us. A given time for each mixture to expand had to be checked. This was done, with a reinforced yellow plastic bag with a valve connection for the intake and constant flow module. The upper side had a tube sticking out, which was filled with water and had an overflow valve on the bag side. For a 50% mixture, the time needed was set at 2 minutes and 34 seconds to 3



minutes and 6 seconds. This means, when you opened the bottle of Nitrox, you had to measure the time elapsed for the bag to be filled with Nitrox and stop it once the bag was full, and the water would overflow. If the time was within the range mentioned above, the flow rate was OK. Quite an interesting way to test it, efficient and logical. Meanwhile, almost an hour had passed and we finally approached the end. Not only are you extending your dive times, but your getting-ready-time as well. Rebreather diving is definitely different and will take some time to catch on in the marketplace. Preparation and a disciplined check and control of the whole unit are an absolute

must for every dive. I don't think that most divers, despite their enthusiasm are ready to be quite so thorough.

Packed and ready to go, we drove for about an hour to the dive site through some very familiar sites, that I frequented, when I was living in the area, about 10 years ago. Old memories came back as well as the instant shock of relativity. "You are getting older!" Well, I guess I am not twenty anymore. Finally, we arrived at the scene and parked the car. The chosen dive site was "Rivaz Gare", the train station of Rivaz, a village right on the lake, east of Montreux. The station is no longer serviced, but is a perfect place for all divers. The waiting room serves as a changing room, heated during winter, and bathrooms as well as changing cabins right on the beach, below four rail tracks. Walking down a couple of stairs and taking the underground walkway of the train station leads you right to the water's edge. It was an amusing place and

perfect for any kind of diving. The sandy beach is sloping gently down to about 10 feet and if you head your dive direction Geneva, you pass a wall that starts at about 30 feet and leans down to about 95 feet. Of course, we did not see any sharks or seals, but the diving is still quite mystical. Most divers go deep, to enjoy the nice rock formations, and you do see occasionally some fish.

It was a gorgeous day and quite warm at about 62 degrees Fahrenheit. We quickly readied ourselves and our dive gear. Since I was diving with a Rebreather, I also had to reconfigure my weight. Since I

**continue on page 8**

**Keep on breathing – oops –  
Rebreather from page 7**

did not bring my gear with we, I ended up diving with a different dry suit than usual. It was a Swissub suit, manufactured in Switzerland.

7mm Neoprene with an attached hood. I was glad I had some of my own under garment with me and decided to wear them as a precaution. I had made a right choice and appreciated all the thermal protection I had after the one-hour dive. Unfortunately, the neck seal was quite loose and water continued to sip inside resulting in a wet chest. It pays to have your own gear that fits you well.

The depth for this Rebreather dive was set at a limit of about 40 to 50 feet and our plan was to do a forty to fifty minute dive, and if time would permit, we would do a second one. When finally dressed we stepped into the blue-greenish water of a totally calm lake with a predicted visibility of about 10 to 15 feet, just like at the Breakwater.

Last instructions and down we went. Well, so I thought, but I needed some more weight. Two more pounds did the trick and some exhaling through the nose took care of the rest. Since the consumed air is not exhaled into the water, but rather directed to the breathing bag, you cannot adjust your buoyancy through your breathing pattern. As badly you might try, you do not moving down or up. This was a new experience, and after 64 minutes of diving, I still was not used to it, and continued to try to exhale with the intend to do drop a couple a feet.

Breathing in general was quite odd at first, but I got used to over time. No noisy bubbles escaping to the surface and the air itself was WARM? Well, I didn't notice any difference, or was it

maybe the cold water? I asked Malek after our dive and was quite surprised, when he confirmed my findings. "Yes" he said, "I agree, I don't notice any difference of the temperature of the air".

Arriving at the end of our dive, I got to switch form the Rebreather to the bailout unit. Closing the mouthpiece and switching to a regulator. Well, that was easy. Now the other way around - no problem. Then there was that drill about losing one's mouthpiece while it free flowed and then recovering it again. Well, that should not be such difficult task to be accomplished, right? At least that is what I thought, but was also happy to see Malek watching me closely while I was reaching back for the hose. I reached and reached and could not catch it. He finally handed it to me and I was able to blow out the regulator and breath normal again form the Rebreather. Malek gave the OK sign and had a noticeable grin on his face.

Three minutes of safety stop and we were back at the entry point. Malek kept on grinning and told me that it was quite funny to watch me while I tried to recover the mouthpiece.

By now it was 4:20 in the afternoon, and we decided to finish our diving here. Malek had to be at work at 7:00 PM and I was getting cold from being wet inside my suit. It was an unforgettable experience and I definitely recommend it to anyone who has a chance to do it. I do not think that I am ready to switch to this kind of diving but it was worthwhile the effort. I will take my time to make that decision and continue with this adventure, considering the time and the way it handles. It definitely is different. On the other hand there is the purchase price to consider. After all, at

about USD4800.00 – retail mind you, it is not an everyday purchase. But then compared to the space shuttle... not out to lunch either. It certainly was a great experience and I am already planning another trip to Switzerland for some lake diving. I guess I am getting hooked... there is still Paccar's undersea boat for research dives of the deep in the Swiss lakes. Until then. A bientot...



*(Note from the editor, "Armin did you starve on this trip? Just chocolates, to be eaten at any time? What happened to the culinary part of the Swiss experience?")*



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**MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRPERSON**

Meet and greet potential Reefers! If you have an enthusiasm for diving and enjoy conversations with new people, this is a position for you. As the Membership Chairperson, you'll join the ranks of our officers in promoting the joys and advantages of being an SF Reef Diver. Beware that your excuse of not being able to find a buddy may become invalid since you'll know everyone who passes through our doors. You're doomed to be diving all the time! **Plus, you'll be on the VIP list** to join in on the monthly feasts at the Officers Meetings. For further information, please contact Kharmen Roman at (415) 519-4655 or [kharmenr@melibe.com](mailto:kharmenr@melibe.com)

“Who was that masked man?”

Do you know your new Director for  
the Sonoma County Abalone Network  
(S.C.A.N.)?

No? Well, either meet him at the April  
17<sup>th</sup> General Club meeting or re-read  
the Presidents Corner ...  
“Hi Yo Silver, Away!!”

➔ *Press Democrat 4/2/02*



## ABALONE SEASON IS HERE AGAIN

By Kenneth Gwin

I would like to point out a few cautions, handy tips, and reminders for those planning to chase our local delicacy.

Be in shape.

Practice in a pool before you go diving in the ocean.

Learn to be comfortable in the ocean while holding your breath.

If you've never done this before, go with someone experienced.

Ask around for helpful techniques.

Follow all the current Fish and Game rules. Have the proper licenses, equipment, and a float.

Be mindful of conditions.

You don't have to dive just because you and all your friends drove a hundred miles just to get cold and wet. If you don't feel good about anything, wait for a better day. Remember that little voice?

Take the weights you would normally wear while scuba diving and remove 10-20%. You need to float easily on the surface (where the air is).

Learn and use an efficient surface dive. Struggling to get down wastes energy and wastes your precious air.

Swim straight to the bottom before swimming around at depth, looking for abs.

Although ab diving is goal oriented, try to remember it is still recreational diving. If you let the need to get abalone (or your fear of public humiliation for failing to get abalone) alter your judgment, you may be

diving past your limitations.

You need to practice diving in these locations and conditions without the goal of getting an abalone to understand what your limits really are.

Try to think of this as a sport of stealth and refinement, not a battle of brute strength while you pry something stubborn off the bottom of a cruel sea.

Impress your friends. Make it look easy.

Dive with a buddy!

### **BENEATH THE SEA SHOW**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2002 in  
Secaucus, New Jersey

This years Northeast Scuba Show, number 26, was as the previous years a great success for the organizer and the vendors. Many people visited the show despite low temperatures and a partially cloudy sky. The show presents most everything, what a divers heart my desire. From vacations, to tech gear, and from heat pads for the cold days to the

original dive gear form the start of the dive sport.

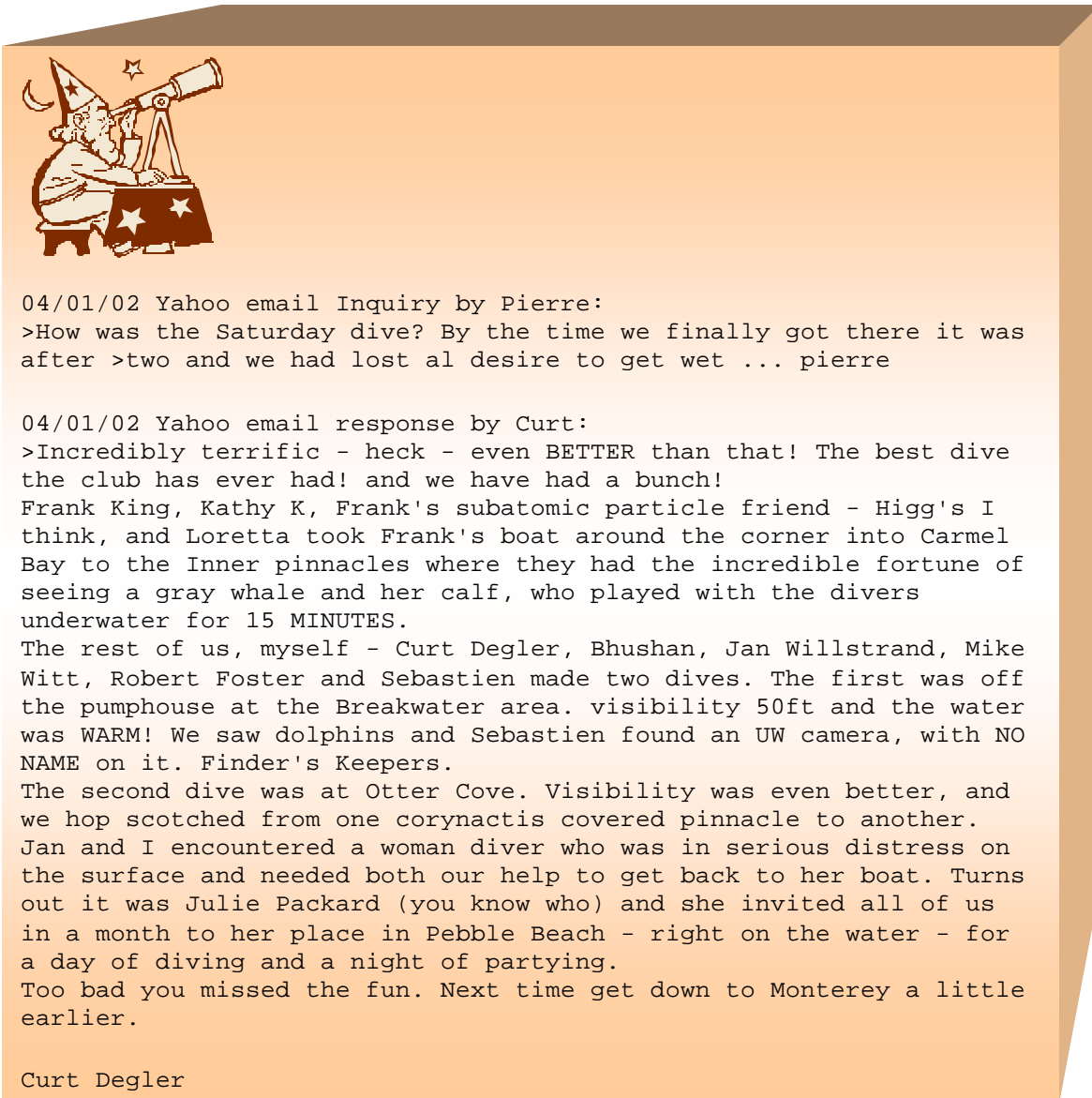
A pool that enabled, young and old, new and certified divers, to practice their skills as well as to test new equipment, was ready for use. One of the great attractions of this show is, a tank that is about ten feet tall and has a glass wall. Divers with commercial and historic gear, amusing the crowd of people, passing through the show.

Stan Waterman was the main attraction in their annual film

festival that is always on Saturday night. Once everybody had enough indulgence of the deep with sharks, you would off-gas at the also annual hold Decompression Party.

Next months, I will report form the Scuba Show in Chicago and about diving in the great lakes. Until then, Air in your tanks, and fins on your feet yours

Armin





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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Boathouse Sports Bar and Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 (For driving directions and a map for this location, visit our club web site: <http://www.sfreefdivers.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)                | 10   |

*Show your support for all four!\$60*

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: ( _____ ) _____	Work Phone: ( _____ ) _____
Email:	_____ Birthdate (year optional): ____/____/____
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 ( <b>Choose one</b> ):	
<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:Bill Donnelly,  
SFRD Treasurer, P.O. Box 151223, San Rafael, CA 949



**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 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Boathouse Sports Bar and

Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 in Harding Park on the shore of Lake Merced. 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  
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