



## HERE SHARKY, SHARKY, SHARKY - OR HAVE YOU EVER PETTED A BABY SHARK?

*Well, it seems that Loretta, Frank Matzkies (our former VP on a return visit from Germany) and Susan claim that they have. No pictures to substantiate their story ... but let's give them the benefit of the doubt. So here is Loretta's account of events:*

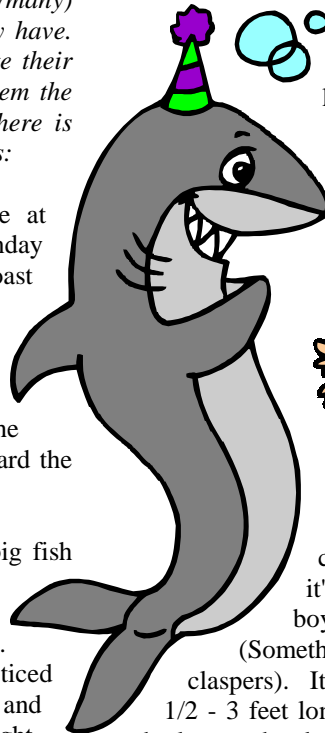
Susan, Frank and I were at Still Water Cove on Sunday during our July North Coast campout.

After a precarious cliff descent - (why do I always do everything the hard way?)- I headed toward the water.

At first it looked like a big fish flopping near the sand. Big large tail with tail-keel lobes of equal size. Then as I got closer, I noticed it had a pointed snout and silky skin - and thought, "Wow, what a small dolphin" As I got right up to it - I saw that it had a huge dorsal fin, black beady eyes and sharp looking teeth. "That's a shark!" But it didn't look like any sand shark, leopard shark, nurse shark, horn shark, swell shark or any other reef-type shark that I'm familiar

with. Yelling up to Frank and Susan - they came running down to take a look.

It had disengaged itself from shore and had swam out about 8 ft then headed back onto the beach again. Trying to beach



itself?  
Fearless Frank did a little shark



petting, Susan checked out it's genitals "a boy", she said. (Something about claspers). It was about 2 1/2 - 3 feet long. Cute little shark mouth about 4" wide. Had no external injuries and looked like a perfect miniature replica of the pictures we've seen of Great Whites. Hm, a Great White for Barbie? Damn, none of us had a camera. How is anyone EVER gonna believe this one!

After about 5 minutes of watching him, he finally took a wave, this time he went out in the water and stayed out. Hopefully, if we ever see him again as an adult he'll be kind to us.

All the way home I kept asking myself, "did we REALLY see a baby Great White? Exactly how big ARE they when they are newly hatched? Was his echolocation off, Was he injured or sick? Why would he want to beach himself?" and, "I wonder if he'll make it?"

At home, I got out my Pacific Coast fish ID books and as best I can make out, the shark we saw was either a Great White (Carcharodon Carharias) or a Shortfin Mako (Isurus Oxyrinchus) According to Paul Humann's book - they look very similar except for the Great White has triangular teeth with serrated edges & the Mako has long, curved pointy teeth). Now I wish I had looked a little closer at his teeth!

Either way - it was quite a sight!

Happy Diving,

Loretta

**DER STAMMTISCH**



Driving through Ukiah on a hot, breezeless Monday, I started looking for the Foster Freeze or Tastee Freeze that I knew was up ahead on the right side of the road somewhere. Every downtown main street used to have one or the other, sometimes both. I love the coffee shakes they used to whip-up. Like Volkswagen Vans and dress codes at school a memory of youth. Stopped at the traffic sign, still looking for the low overhanging roof of the ice-cream joint, my anticipation growing with each passing drop of sweat. That's when I saw it, a six-foot tall fiberglass ice-cream cone on a tall flagpole standing by the side of the road. Nearby a forlorn looking concrete slab, with some twisted bolts and rusting rebar poking out at odd angles. Dress codes, VW bugs and even Tastee Freezes, some things disappear, some change, but nothing stays the same for ever.

Just how much things change was brought home to me at our monthly meeting when we had Alberto Nava (Beto), Susan Bird and John Heiman give us a presentation on their favorite way to dive. Twin tanks, long hoses and back plates, wings, all captured on a CD as they go scootering through Point Lobos and the outer pinnacles. It all looks so effortless; it looks like a lot of fun.

I've been reading "Deep Descent" by Kevin McMurray, a history of diving the Andrea Doria. Old grainy black and white photographs show the first dive onto the deck of the Doria. Peter Gimbel, the Gimbel's department store heir, and James Fox, wearing wetsuits and double hose regulators, no SPG's or buoyancy control, hauled themselves down the buoy line left by the Coast Guard to the wreck. Had they had a depth-gauge, they would have found themselves somewhere around 200 feet deep. It was the day after the Doria had sunk, July 26, 1956. It's amazing how far we've come. When Gimble set foot on the Doria's deck there was not much understanding among "recreational" divers about oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis or gas mixes other than air. It wasn't that long ago that O<sub>2</sub> enriched air was looked upon as a new sort of "snake oil" a breathing mixture, which stretched the notion of "individual responsibility" to the breaking point.

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**Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:**

**Pierre Hurter  
515 Diamond Street  
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## 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 - <i>General Meeting</i></p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)</p> <p>15 - Ed Cooper Memorial</p> <p><b>19 - General Meeting</b></p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>09 - Pt. Lobos</p> <p><b>19 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat</p> <p>29 &amp; 30 - Pt. Lobos</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>02 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>04 through 06 - Abalone Opener</p> <p><b>16 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat</p>	<p>07 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p><b>21 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p><b>18 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>21 - Monterey Beach Dive Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</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>11 - 13 North Coast Weekend Coordinator: Armin Luggen</p> <p><b>16 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>01 - 03 Abalone Opener Coordinator: Ursula Bernhart</p> <p>06 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p><b>20 - General Meeting</b> SINDBAD'S on Pier 2, San Francisco</p> <p>16 - 20 - <b>FULL</b>- Channel Islands - Coordinator: Jim Vallario 415.566.0784</p>	<p>03 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>05 - 07 Lake Tahoe Dive Coordinator: Norm - 510-520-3186</p> <p>13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p><b>17 - General Meeting</b></p> <p>19 - 20 Abalone Campout Coordinator: Jack Dietzen 415-566-0703</p> <p>20 - Monterey Beach Cleanup Coordinator: David Clayton drc@astound.net</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>01 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>04 - Alcatraz swim/paddle Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p><b>15 - General Meeting</b> <i>Officer Nominations !!!</i></p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>TBD - Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</p> <p><b>19 - General Meeting - Officer Elections</b></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><b>17 - General Meeting - Christmas Party</b></p>

Stammtisch – from page 2

Gives you pause when you think where we may yet go. Amongst our club members Nitrox or “geezer gas” has become common. We have members who nonchalantly discuss what percentage of helium they’ll be using as a “bottom gas”. From Point Lobos, to the Andria Doria to the Breakwater, there seems to a dive niche for almost everyone.



Closer to home and at considerably shallower depths a plucky band of Reef Divers headed for the coast the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup> for a camping, diving bacchanal at Ocean Cove. Ocean Cove was first surveyed in 1860. At that time it bordered Rancho German, what is now Salt Point State Park. The store, which sits across from the campsite, was established in 1860. Just the spot in case you need some sinkers, a chaw of tobacco or some ice cream for desert. Besides Gerda and I Loretta, Frank Matskies, Armin Susan, Robert and Curt showed up for some sun, barbequing and diving.



I made my first wet suit dive in about two years, I have to say, it wasn’t all that bad. It’s an odd sensation as you wade in and feel the ocean start to wick up the suit. Still I got in two nice dives at Stillwater Cove. The place is full of abalone, lingcod and rockfish, all in fairly shallow waters. The kelp formed an almost impenetrable lid floating a foot or two off of the bottom. Makes for great fun swimming in and out of the voids formed by the green canopy.

I have to admit that our first choice had been somewhere in the North Coast, Russian Cultch to be exact, but that didn’t quite work out as planned. Still we had a great time, Curt tried out his new toy, a hand held GPS (Global Positioning System) unit which he use to paddle to his mystical pinnacle, I made some dives in one of my favorite little coves and some of our group had an encounter with a Great White, (see page 1).

Saturday, Gerda and I tumbled out of bed and made ready to head for Monterey. Say what you want about cats, they are smart enough to know when it’s Saturday and time for us to be sleeping in. Acting piqued our cat, watched us with unveiled disdain as we got dressed, brewed up a cuppa tea and headed out the door.

Once again, we where on our way to Monterey and hopefully, some extraordinary diving aboard the Cypress Sea. We made good time and found ourselves on the dock with other early birds in various stages of alertness. People really can be broadly characterized as being either morning people or night owls. Fortunately, Gerda and I both seem to prefer mornings,

there’s nothing more comical than a mismatched couple, half the day is wasted on one or the other. With Captains Dave and Xcott at the helm and Shawna as our safety diver we headed south towards Carmel. On the way my naptime was interrupted by more activity than I’ve ever seen on this boat. For a brief moment I thought we where either sinking or in the midst of an alien abduction. It turned out to be much more exciting, a sighting of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) off the bow. We spent the next fifteen minutes or so watching these huge mammals gracefully blow and breach. After a time one of the whales rolled over and waved as we both headed our own ways again.

Blue whales are the largest mammals on earth, possibly the largest animals to ever inhabit the planet. An average blue whale is between 75 and 80 feet long and weighs some 110 tons. Females are larger than males and can weigh as much as 150 tons. A female gives birth to a calf which is 23 to 27 feet long and can weigh as much as 3 tons. During the summer month an adult blue whale will consume 4 tons or more of krill every day.

The size of the blue whales spared them in the early days of whaling, open boats and hand thrown harpoons where no match for these beasts. With the advent of “modern” whaling their numbers plummeted from an estimated 200,000 to the 10,000 to 12,000 which survive today in the North Atlantic, North Pacific and the Southern Hemisphere. The International Whaling Commission has banned all hunting of blue whales since 1966.

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**Stammtisch – from page 4**

So much for our whale encounter, shortly afterwards we dropped anchor at our first dive site, Flintstones. This is a great site; we dropped down the anchor line which was settled in at about 65 feet. From there Gerda and I dropped towards the shelf and began exploring at the 100-foot mark. The visibility was good enough to see the wall continue down to the sandy bottom at 130 feet or so. The walls were encrusted with *Corynactis californica* and sponges of every sort. There were also several large hard corals. We took our time and spent a good half hour in the water before heading back for the surface. Our second dive was at Outer Pinnacles, not quite as deep this time. We saw several large brown cowry's as well as schools of rockfish and a large lemon nudibranch. Our final

dive of the day was at Carmel Pinnacle. This is a great site to poke around at. Huge blocks of granite with sand bottomed channels and small schooling fish everywhere.

This might be one of our last times out with Captain Dave at the Helm for a while. Turns out that Captain Dave is going to be putting down his spyglass in favor of a piece of chalk and an Eraser. Dave is going to be teaching, religion and history. I hope we'll get to see him at least occasionally; I'll bring an apple.

Afterwards we adjourned to the London Bridge Pub, where we explored various menu and beverage options. Once fed we started in on the fate of the original London Bridge, no not the famous one of fairy tales, but rather the one that chainsaw magnate Robert McCulloch bought, for \$2.4 million. It took

three years to dismantle the bridge and fly the bricks to America. In 1971 the bridge was ready for business in its new home in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.



We got all that hashed out, enjoyed some chowder as well as fish and chips and of course a few of the ever important electrolyte replenishment beverages, or "sports drinks" as I like to call them. Until next month remember when in doubt, WWMND (what would Mike Nelson Do)

**TANKS AND WEIGHTS FOR SALE**

Two 80 cu. ft. aluminium tanks at \$60 each (Sherwood valves)

Two 80 cu. ft. steel tanks at \$140 each (Faber tanks, with regular yoke valve)

About 30lb in soft lead weights - make me any sort of offer.

All four tanks are in good condition, under two years old, and have current visual and hydro markings. Tanks and weights have to go because I am moving back to Scotland shortly and it's not worth shipping them home.

Call Pete White, on 415 775 2052, or [plw@dataconnection.com](mailto:plw@dataconnection.com) if interested.



**DANISH COURT RULES THAT LIQUEFYING GOLD FISH IS NOT A CRIME, BUT IS IT ART?**

An art display featuring gold fish in a blender with an invitation for visitors to press the "on" button lead to a fine for cruelty to animals after at least one art patron "pushed the button" killing two goldfish. Peter Meyer of the Trapholt Art Museum in Kolding Denmark stated, "It's a question of principle. An artist has the right to create works which defy our concept of what is right and what is wrong." The court ruled that the fish had not been treated cruelly as they had been killed "instantly" and "humanely", according to the judge. Expert witnesses for the defense included a veterinarian and a spokesperson for the blender's maker Moulinex.



### **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)



### **ALBION CAMPOUT AND ABALONE QUEST**

For those of you who managed to miss out on the last two campouts, here's another chance. The San Francisco Flipper Dippers are hosting a campout in Albion.

Albion sits on Highway One ten miles south of Mendocino Village. More specifically it is located at Latitude: 39.223N and Longitude: -123.767W. It is the first of a series of small villages built on coves that you encounter going north on Hwy 1 after leaving the Navarro river and Highway 128. It is about a three-hour drive form San Francisco.

In 1853 English sea captain W. A. Richardson, having married the daughter of the Mexican commandant in San Francisco and subsequently being awarded a land grant of the territory between the Garcia River and Big River, sailed into a small bay at the mouth of a river, and named it Albion, the ancient name for Britain.

For more information call Jack Dietzgen at 415.566.0703



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 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*

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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 ( <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: 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 3rd Wednesday of the month at 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  
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