



Potential double trouble

“ On Dec. 5, I finally became a Grandpa". My 21 year old daughter, Christina, now Mom, had twin girls. Maya was 5lb 2oz and 18inches and Jasmine was 4lb 7oz and 19 inches..." read Norm Knutson's email, announcing the arrival of his newborn granddaughters.

Potential double trouble? I wonder if this should read TRIPPLE...?

In any event, **CONGRATULATIONS** to one **VERY**, proud grandpa are in order! **THE BEST FROM ALL OF US, NORM!**

NOTES FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT CZAR:

This month's entertainment is an interactive event with the Marin Scuba Club this Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00 PM, at the Sea Food Peddler in San Rafael (www.marinclub.org). Food and drink will be available. Anyone who has slides of underwater activities (or appropriate topside shenanigans) please bring some along for an exciting cultural exchange. (see page 4)

Our February entertainment will be a presentation by Bruce Watkins on great white sharks. The great white, (a.k.a., the "Man in the Grey Suit" or simply, the "Landlord") is always a hot topic. This should be good.

BUT:

In March we face an interesting challenge. As I have noticed a decline in attendance at recent meetings, I would like to encourage a blossoming of participation by inviting any member to volunteer as a speaker on any dive related topic. And encourage your friends and relatives to attend, as well.

The challenge is on.

Please contact me at (415) 648-7046, or artfxsf@aol.com
Kenneth Gwin

DON'T FORGET ... DON'T FORGET ... DON'T FORGET ... DON'T FORGET ... DON'T FORGET

2003 has arrived and once again it is **TIME** to **RENEW** your SFRD **MEMBERSHIP!**

Don't miss out on reading about exciting dive outings of fellow club members, dive community information and upcoming events/entertainment at our monthly meetings!

Please see membership form on page 7 for details and/or contact Armin Luggen at (415) 479-3240 or armin@luggens.com

DER STAMMTISCH



I started putting pencil to paper as I usually do around this time of the month when it occurred to me that I might have to change the title a bit. Somehow "The President's Corner" didn't seem entirely appropriate anymore. I wracked my brain for awhile trying to come up with a new lead. Having just returned from two weeks in Vienna it dawned on me that "Der Stammtisch" might fit the bill.

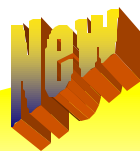
A "Stammtisch" is a table in a restaurant, which is set-aside for regular customers, usually a close circle of cronies. It implies that you will be spending some time, usually over a class of wine or beer discussing politics, sports, the proper temperature to serve the glass of wine or beer your drinking and any other matters of import to the group. That fits the Reef Divers to a tee, a loosely knit group of divers who on occasion like to gather to eat, drink and maybe even do a bit of diving. Not necessarily in that order of course.

On the subject of diving, it's been awhile since Gerda and I have been in the water. We tried heading out on the Cypress Sea shortly before Christmas, but the trip was cancelled when the waves started washing over the breakwater into the parking lot. The closest we've come to diving was to visit a couple of dive shops in Vienna and picking up the latest issue of "Taucher" magazine. Gerda did bring back a shiny new Suunto computer as a memento of our travels. "Traveling is like gambling: it is always connected with winning and losing, and generally where it is least expected we receive more of less than we had hoped for." ... Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

I'm looking forward to going out on the Cypress Sea this weekend. With a little luck we'll manage to finally get in a couple of dives. The only worry I have, is that after two weeks of my father in law's cooking I may have trouble squeezing into my dry suit. I'll let you know how we do next month. Meanwhile in the words of Lloyd Bridges, "I'm inviting you to join us for another action-packed story of underwater adventure one month from today" (*Descends the Argonauts steps to the water, wearing triple tanks*)

2002 SFRD OFFICERS

President	Gene Kramer	(650) 339-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
Vice President	Peter White	(415) 775-2052 plw@dataconnection.com
Treasurer	Pierre Hurter	(415) 285-6293 saltwaterwolf@attbi.com
Webmaster	Curt Degler	(707) 570-0457 cdegler@aquagraphy.com
Newsletter Editor	Gerda Hurter	(415) 285-6293 saltwaterwolf@attbi.com
Entertainment Committee	Ken Gwin	(415) 648-7046 artfxsf@aol.com
AMCR Representative	Gene Kramer	(415) 339-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
CenCal Representative	Bill Galameau	(510) 451-2370
Membership Chairperson	Armin Luggen	(415) 479-3240 armin@luggens.com



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

REEFER RAP

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - New Year's Day Dive - Point Lobos Coordinator Kathryn Klein (650-368-1921) or kklein@aftermidnight.com</p> <p>11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Jim Vallario 415-566-0784</p> <p>15 - General Meeting <i>The Seafood Peddler - San Rafael !!!</i></p> <p><i>For details see page 4</i></p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p> <p>19 - General Meeting - BOATHOUSE "Bruce Watkins"</p> <p>TBD - President's Day Dive</p>	<p>05 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>19 - General Meeting - Boat House</p> <p>22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>02 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Opener</p> <p>16 - General Meeting - Boat House</p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>07 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>21 - General Meeting - Boat House</p> <p>24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>18 - General Meeting - Boat House</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 - Boat House</p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>06 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>20 - General Meeting - Boat House</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 - Boat House</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 - Boat House - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>TBD - Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</p> <p>19 - General Meeting - Boat House - 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 at the Boat House !!!</p>

January 15th, 2003

SFRD & Marin Scuba Club Mixer

Meeting Location



100 Yacht Club Dr.
San Rafael
460-6669

Program at 8:00 PM

Good conversation before starting at 7:00 PM

Come early to sample the unique seafood menu and spectacular view!

EASY TO FIND

From 101, exit Central San Rafael. Go east on Second Street and bear right at yield sign (Grand Avenue). Grand turns into East Francisco Boulevard. Follow East San Francisco and make first left onto Yacht Club Drive (look for large palm trees and a tall boat sign).

DIVING KONA

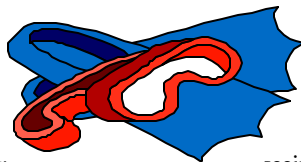
by Bhushan Mudbhary

Never one to let even the remotest diving opportunity pass me by, I was thrilled to learn that my employer Synopsys, Inc., was hosting its annual sales conference for 2002 in Kona. Immediately I set my plans, machinations, and plotting on high gear and hurried into an urgently called meeting with my boss, Mr. Neil Holland, who some of you may recall joined the Reefers on a Channel Island trip in 2001. Mr. Holland being like-minded rightly agreed that the company's agenda included team building and this definitely called for arriving on the island as early as possible and do a whole lot of diving before the real work started on Dec. 9, 2002. It helps to have a boss who dives.

Dec 4th. and we were Kona bound. Dec 5th. early in the morning found us in the King Kam property where Eco Adventure Divers are located. And we went diving. I asked myself just how much diving could I take in clear warm water before I said enough. I don't have that answer, what I do know is the number is more than 5 days.

Now about the diving. We logged 15 dives over the 5 days, only restricted by the format available to us. We did days with two morning dives, 1 afternoon dive and 1 night dive. And also a day that included a long-range 3-dive format. The sites ranged from the likes of Suck'em Up, Arches and Eel Garden closer to Kona, to the famous Aau Aau Crater, Paradise Cove and Cathedral far south where the

Aggressor heads. Underwater terrain ranged from mellow excursions along a sloping reef to down right fun swimming inside lava tunnels and chutes, and as the name implied Suck'em up was true to form where if you timed it right and you had to, the surge just sucked you right out, and around the mouth of a tube. Aau Aau crater will be one that remains in my mind for a long while for its breathtaking landscape. Imagine swimming along a reef at 30 ft., and you ascend somewhat to say 20 ft or so to the lip of the crater and there before you is a majestic underwater crater. Blue water with infinite visibility. Now you pretend to do a swan dive off of a little rock outcrop at the lip into the endless blue below. You cannot but help connect, to something bigger than yourself, much bigger.



I had heard that the marine life in Kona waters might leave one wanting. But it wasn't so. We enjoyed seeing many varieties of fish and marine critters and were quite satisfied. Highlights included turtles getting cleaned at their stations, sharks sleeping it off under caverns, a pelagic jelly, whale sounds (and sightings from the boat), butterfly fish too many to name and count, parrot fish, more eels than I have seen anywhere and in variety, including capturing on film an eel hunting and feeding on a fish during a night dive. And last but hardly the least was the famous Kona Manta Ray night dive.

The Manta Ray dive deserves a paragraph of its own. The site was north from Kona near the airportish. You descend to about 30+ feet and sit amongst the sand and rock, in circles with dive lights on and pointed upwards.

The light concentrates the plankton, which in turn invite the mantas for a buffet. Or so went the theory. And it worked!! We had seven mantas come to our buffet spread and over a 40-minute period they swooped down amongst us, did somersaults and generally amazed us with their size and grace.



A videographer captured the event. And hopefully I will have a DVD to show at one of our club meetings. The experience was billed as a "top 10", and having been there I couldn't agree more. I am usually a little leery about forced encounters such as shark-feeds, but I would be lying if I didn't tell you that I came away smiling.

OK... the dive shop/dive boat. I picked Eco Adventure by searching the web. They seemed popular and credible enough. Other shops I would readily go to include folks like Jack's Diving Locker and Dive Makai. Eco Adventure turned out great. What made the difference was the amazing service and genuine care the captains, dive masters and crew displayed. We were in a lull between TG and Christmas, and had the large catamaran mostly to ourselves. The long-range charter was done off a 6 pack that while it lacked the space of the cat, more than made up in the more intimate setting and the access to awesome sites.

continued on page 6

Diving Kona – from page 5

This folks also run a tech diving school there, so if I ever have the hankering to get trained to go beyond 135ft., I just might go to Hawaii.

Dec 9th. came and we headed off to the Waikoloa Hilton resort for our conference. The Hilton is very much self contained and big.

With its own train and an artificial lagoon with ferries passengers. Too big and sterile for my taste. The dive gear spread out and drying in my room kept me anchored to the world that I really longed for. The one with dive boats and lead, neoprene and compressed air, from Bermuda to the Barrier Reef, in warm water and cold kelp, and giant strides into the blue from which I return renewed every single time



THE BABE’S PIANO, WILL IT SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY?

Baseball slugger Babe Ruth vacationed at Willis Pond during the winter of 1918. According to local folklore, while drinking at one of his parties he threw a piano into the pond as a show of strength.

Another version has him hosting a sing-along for the local kids, when they ran out of room at the cabin; the piano was hauled out

onto the frozen lake. After the sing-along the piano was left on the ice where it eventually sank to the bottom.

Whichever tale you believe, the Boston Red Sox have not won a World Series since the Babe was traded to the New York Yankees in 1920. The “Curse of the Bambino” was born shortly thereafter.

A group called the Restoration Project, with help from America Underwater Search and Survey, hope to find the piano restore it to it’s former and end the



DOLPHINS JOIN THE NAVY

The US Navy is preparing 60 dolphins in case they are needed for active duty if a war with Iraq occurs. The Navy Marine Mammal Program in San Diego trained dolphins that were used during the Gulf war to detect underwater mines and enemy divers.

The dolphins are particularly useful at night as they do not rely on their eyesight to detect items in the water. They also take part in annual US Navy and NATO exercises to keep them prepared for action.

The US Navy is not alone with it’s plans to draft dolphins. The Indian Navy has unveiled plans of using trained dolphins for deep-sea missions, including the planting of limpet mines under water.



TSUKIJI MARKET OPENS YEAR WITH 6.38 MILLION YEN TUNA SALE

The first tuna auction of the year got off to a good start in Tokyo’s Tsukiji fish market. A single tuna sold for 6.38 million yen (\$53,103) on Sunday. One big tuna can provide enough sushi or sashimi for up to 6,000 people.

The price was up from last year’s 2.8 million yen (\$23,306), but far lower than the record 20.2 million yen (\$66,467) from 2001.

The prize fish, a 228 kg blue fin tuna, was caught off Oma, Aomori Prefecture. It was one of 3,600 tunas lying on the wet auction floor at the world’s biggest wholesale fish market, run by Tsukiji Uoichiba Co.

The auction kicked off shortly before 5 a.m. after market officials conveyed their New Year’s greetings in a ceremony under a banner that read “Congratulations for the Year’s First Cargo Arriva



Fish brokers examine tunas at the year’s first auction at the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo.





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 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 (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 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.sfreedivers.org/>.

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