



THE LIGHTSHIP RELIEF - WLV 605.
by Pierre Hurter

On Christmas Eve, a few of us got together near Jack London Square for a leisurely morning paddle. Along the way we went by the Lightship Relief - WLV 805. You can't miss her; she's moored adjacent to the former presidential yacht Potomac, the "floating Whitehouse" of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and is painted a bright red.

Lightships like the Relief served mariners for 163 years, from 1820 to 1983. During that time 116 stations were established along the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts as well as in the Great Lakes. At their peak in 1909 there were 56 lightship stations along America's coasts.

Approximately 174 lightships were constructed to man these stations. Of those ships, 168 were constructed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service (1789 - 1939) and six by the U.S. Coast Guard, which took over the Lighthouse Service in 1939. There are currently 12 lightships remaining.

Because lightships often served on several stations during their service life they were officially known by their hull numbers, in this case the WLV-605, one of six lightships constructed for the Coast Guard, by

Rice Brothers Shipyard in Boothbay, Maine. She was commissioned on 15 February 1951 as Overfalls a station off Delaware. In 1960 she was transferred to the Blunts (reef) station off Cape Mendocino, California. Finally, in 1969 she became Relief, relieving all west coast lightships.

Relief was decommissioned in 1975 and given to the city of Olympia, Washington in 1976. Olympia was unsuccessful in making the ship a museum and sold her to Mr. Alan Hosking of Woodside, California in 1979. In 1980, he sailed the ship from Olympia to Oakland and dry-docked the vessel. After completion of dry-docking, the ship was sailed to Half Moon Bay, where she remained anchored off Piliar Point. He in turn donated the ship to the United States Lighthouse Society on 31 December 1986.

In February of 1987, Society volunteers sailed the ship under her own power from Half Moon Bay back to Oakland and docked her at the Ninth Avenue Terminal in the Oakland Estuary. There she was restored to her 1951 appearance; in 1990 she was designated as a National Historic Landmark. She is now open to the public, for more information see ... <http://www.uslhs.org/inner/lightship.html>.



JANUARY'S ENTERTAINMENT

I'm more than familiar with the recently released video entitled "Discover California Diving." A good many of my dive buddies have been involved in creating this project. With careful examination, you may note that I actually have a cameo appearance as diver support, etc., etc.

This video tries to give the diver at any level of experience an overview and outline of the best of California diving while traveling from one end of the state to another. It even takes a dip in Lake Tahoe.

Come check out the festive blue waters of Catalina, the rich kelp forests of the Central Coast, and the rugged North Coast through pictures, commentary, maps and site descriptions.

There is something for every recreational diver and deep-water aficionado in this video and companion CD. Jim Thompson, the lead on this project may even show his friendly face.

Der Stammtisch

Since we are in a brand new year, I've decided that as one of my resolutions, I would include one dive related leader in each Stammtisch this year. So here goes, January 17 marks the 300 anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. Born in Boston to Josiah Franklin a soap maker and Abiah Folger, young Benjamin managed to spend a year in school before starting work as an apprentice printer with his brother James, who was a printer. By the time he was fifteen he had been published under the *nom de plume* of the widow Silence Dogood and run his brother's newspaper for a period when his brother ran afoul of the local Puritan preachers, the Mathers and was thrown in jail for making fun of the clergy.

Benjamin went on to start his own newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. He was a printer, most notably, *Poor Richard's Almanack*, a civic leader, scientist, diplomat and inventor. Aside from the lightning rod, the first subscription library, fire insurance and three generations of illegitimate children, Ben is also credited with inventing bifocals, an odometer, the Franklin stove and here's the diving link, watertight bulkheads and swim fins.



If you're reading this you have obviously recovered from your New Year's bacchanal. The New Years is probably the oldest celebrated holiday, certainly the one celebrated by the largest numbers of people around the world

In Austria Pope Innocent XII declared January 1 to be New Year's Day in 1691. New Year's Eve is called *Sylvesterabend*, the Eve of Saint Sylvester. Favored beverages include a punch made of cinnamon, sugar, and red wine in honor of him. Local watering holes are decorated with evergreen wreaths and evil spirits of the old year are kept at bay by the firing of mortars called *böller*

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2005 SFRD OFFICERS

President	Gene Kramer	(650) 359-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
Vice President		
Treasurer & Secretary	Pierre Hurter	(415) 285-6293 sfreefdiver@comcast.net
Webmaster	Curt Degler	(707) 570-0457 cdegler@aquagraphy.com
Newsletter Editor	Gerda Hurter	(415) 285-6293 sfreefdiver@comcast.net
Entertainment Committee	Ken Gwin	(415) 648-7046 artfxsf@aol.com
AMCR Representative	Gene Kramer	(415) 339-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
CenCal Representative	Debra Gilmore	gilmored2@yahoo.com



Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:

**Pierre Hurter
515 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114**

REEFER'S RAP 2006

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
01 - New Year's Day - Point Lobos 04 - Officers Meeting 14 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's	01 - Officers Meeting 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's	01 - Officers Meeting 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Abalone Opener 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's	03 - Officers Meeting 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's	07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun - Pierre - 415.285.6293 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's TBD - Abalone Closer
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.285.6293 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's	TBD - Abalone Opener 02 - Officers Meeting 13-15 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's	06 - Officers Meeting 08 - 10 - Lake Tahoe Dive - Norm Knutson 16 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 16 - Monterey Beach Cleanup 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
TBD - Alcatraz swim/paddle - Tim - invitational@south-end.org 04 - Officers Meeting 14 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.285.6293 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!	01 - Officers Meeting 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!! 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Abalone Closer	06 - Officers Meeting 09 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party !!!

CHANNEL ISLANDS TRIP 2006

DIVE BOAT "PEACE"



- When : Aug. 13, 14 & 15-2006 (Sun, Mon, Tue)
- Destination : Southern Channel Islands (Including San Clemente)
- Departure Info : Departs 10:00PM on 8-12-06 from Ventura, Ca
- Cost : \$360 (Includes fuel surcharge for San Clemente)

As usual, the Reef Divers have chartered ½ of the boat for 2006. This equates to 14 spots.

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

- 1) Mark the dates on your calendar/planner/PDA.
- 2) Send Jim Vallario (415-566-0784, 117 Chaves Ave, San Francisco, 94127) a check for \$100, made out to San Francisco Reef Divers. **Receipt of your check by the coordinator puts your name on the list.**
- 3) On 7-01-06, send the remainder (\$260) to our treasurer (Pierre Hurter, 515 Diamond St., San Francisco, 94114)

The Peace has Nitrox capability. The fee for unlimited fills on a three-day trip is \$75, payable when you arrive on the boat. The requirements are:

- 1) A Nitrox certification card (to be shown to the Divemaster).
- 2) A full tank of Nitrox prior to boarding the boat. (Their system does not require an oxygen-clean tank).
- 3) The tank must have a Nitrox ID sticker, or some other form of Nitrox ID, visible on the tank.

Some reminders:

- 1) Bring all of your dive gear, including weight belt and one tank.
- 2) If you've let your DAN insurance lapse, now would be a good time to renew.
- 3) Each bunk has a pillow and blanket, so if you require more, i.e. sheets, a sleeping bag, etc. plan accordingly.

Stammtisch from page 2

In Vienna, the Straus operetta *Die Fledermaus* is performed every New Year's Day and New Year's Eve at the Vienna State Opera, and a mostly Strauss concert is performed by the Vienna Philharmonic. For those who can't score tickets to the New Year's balls there are venues throughout the downtown area featuring music, food and drink, lots of punch and hot rum. There are also stands selling *Glücksbringer*, small charms in the shapes of pigs, foil wrapped chocolate gold coins, chimney sweeps, four-leaf clovers, and horseshoes.

One of my favorite activities is *bleigiessen*. You melt lead in a small spoon over a candle and pour it into a class of water. The resulting shapes are used to make predictions about the coming year.

Did you ever wonder what *Auld Lang Syne* meant? I've probably heard that tune several hundred times and never really could tell you what it meant or who wrote it. The lyrics were at least partially written by Robert Burns and first published in 1796 after Burn's death. *Auld Lang Syne*, means "old Long ago" or "the good old days".

Auld Lang Syne

*Should auld acquaintance be
forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be
forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

*Should auld acquaintance be
forgot
and never brought to mind?*

*Should auld acquaintance be
forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
And here's a hand, my trusty
friend
And gie's a hand o' thine
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne*

So what did we do to ring in the New Year? Well since Gerda was on call for most of the holiday we did what we usually do; fell asleep on the sofa while watching the movie *Avanti!* Directed by Billy Wilder, it's a comedy of errors starring Jack Lemmon as Wendell Armbruster Jr, as an uptight snobby American executive who travels to Italy to reclaim the body of his father, killed in a car

crash while vacationing on the isle of Ischia in Italy. Once there hotel director Carlo Carlucci (Clive Revill) tries to explain the intricacies of local red tape. Wendell also becomes short with solicitous fellow-traveler Pamela Piggott, Juliet Mills, when she tries to tell him that not only did his father not die alone, but that he had a lover –

his yearly trips to Italy were to keep up an annual affair with her mother. Great movie, lots of lovably obnoxious Americans, and gorgeous views of the Mediterranean, no diving though.

For those of you who didn't get enough on the first, don't despair, January 29 ushers in the year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar and particularly for those of us in the Bay Area a second chance to celebrate the New Year and perhaps for some of us, stay awake abit longer.

According to legend, Buddha asked all of the animals to meet him on New Years day. Twelve came, and a year was named after each one. Those born in dog years are thought to be faithful to those they love, kind, and generous. They strive to right wrongs and know how to



keep secrets; they can also be eccentric and stubborn at times. Bill Clinton, Shirley MacLain, Jennifer Lopez, Michael Jackson and Benjamin

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Stammtisch from page 5

Franklin were all born in the year of the dog.

So much for the New Year in Vienna and China, closer to home, I'm getting ready for our first Cypress Sea Dive in 2006. It is beginning to look as if my dry suit won't be ready in time so I'll be taking a dip in a wet suit, maybe that's the most appropriate way to start out the year, total immersion. The closest we've gotten to diving lately was

watching the movie *Into the Blue* a remake of *The Deep*. You may recall the original featuring Jacqueline Bisset in one of films great wet "T" shirt moments along with Nick Nolte and Louis Gosset as the bad guy.

The modern version features Jessica Alba and Paul Walker. No wet "T's", but plenty of free diving sequences and when in scuba, Halcyon DIR gear. It's your typical idyllic poor dive bum in the Caribbean finds a 19th century pirate ship, next to a

crashed plane full of smuggled cocaine. You know, sort of like the typical Reef Diver holiday scenario. Now my question is, am I the only guy who can't effortlessly dive for what seems like five to ten minutes on a single breathhold?

As for the rest of you, don't be shy, plan a dive, kayak trip, bungee jumping excursion or come to a meeting, whatever tickles your fancy, it's a new year with the promise of great new opportunities.

Time as marked by the bells

The use of the bells to mark the time stems from the period when seamen (1) could not afford a personal time piece (i.e. - a watch) and (2) even if they could, they had no idea on how to tell time with such an instrument. The bells mark the hours of the watch in half-hour increments. The seamen would know if it were morning, noon, or night. Each watch* is four hours long and the bells are struck thus:

Mid	Morning	Forenoon	Afternoon	Dogs*	First
0030 - 1 bell	0430 - 1 bell	0830 - 1 bell	1230 - 1 bell	1630 - 1 bell	2030 - 1 bell
0100 - 2 bells	0500 - 2 bells	0900 - 2 bells	1300 - 2 bells	1700 - 2 bells	2100 - 2 bells
0130 - 3 bells	0530 - 3 bells	0930 - 3 bells	1330 - 3 bells	1730 - 3 bells	2130 - 3 bells
0200 - 4 bells	0600 - 4 bells	1000 - 4 bells	1400 - 4 bells	1800 - 4 bells	2200 - 4 bells
0230 - 5 bells	0630 - 5 bells	1030 - 5 bells	1430 - 5 bells	1830 - 5 bells	2230 - 5 bells
0300 - 6 bells	0700 - 6 bells	1100 - 6 bells	1500 - 6 bells	1900 - 6 bells	2300 - 6 bells
0330 - 7 bells	0730 - 7 bells	1130 - 7 bells	1530 - 7 bells	1930 - 7 bells	2330 - 7 bells
0400 - 8 bells**	0800 - 8 bells	1200 - 8 bells	1600 - 8 bells	2000 - 8 bells	2400 - 8 bells

Notes: * - The period from 1600 to 2000 is split into two dog watches. These watches run from 1600 to 1800 and from 1800 to 2000. This alternates the daily watch routine so Sailors on the mid-watch would not have it the second night, and, the split also gives each watchstander the opportunity to eat the evening meal.

** - The end of the watch is considered at 8 bells, hence the saying "Eight Bells and All Is Well."



Renew NOW!!!

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"/> | Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | <u>10</u> |

Show your support for all three! \$50

Name:	_____				
Address:	_____				
City:	_____	State:	_____	Zip:	_____
Home Phone:	(____) _____	Work Phone:	(____) _____		
Email:	_____				
How would you like your newsletter delivered? (Choose one):					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Online at the SFRD website (preferred)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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/>.

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C/O Gerda Hurter
515 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114