



**NOTE:
THE GENERAL MEETING IN
MARCH
WILL BE HELD AT**

Sinbad's
Pier 2 Restaurant

**AT THE FOOT OF MARKET
STREET & EMBARCADERO, NEXT
TO THE FERRY BUILDING**

**PIER 2 EMBARCADERO STREET
SAN FRANCISCO**

DER STAMMTISCH



One of the fascinations of technology is how it skews our view of the world. Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away, the world was a simple place, a kind of perpetual *Leave it to Beaver* episode. Or maybe that's just the way we want to remember how we think things ought to be. My favorite anchor in times of uncertainty is the Martini, one of my beloved relics of the past. Can you remember when you had your first one? I can, I was seventeen, in Brussels, smoking Gauloises and in my mind about as cool as it is possible to be at that age. To put this in perspective, this was also the summer I bought my first leather jacket saw an opera from the standing room section and made out until my lips hurt, so much for sophistication. The Martini, that was one habit that stayed with me, sure there were the occasional dalliances with Fuzzy Navels and Tequila Sunrises, but honestly everyone was doing it. In the end though I returned to the classics and the Martini is the king of the old time drinks, one of America's true gifts to world culture. The origins of the Martini are contested, some claim that it was originally called the Martinez and served up at the Occidental Hotel in San Francisco. The denizens of Martinez have a more local take on the story, claiming the honor as their own. As is usual in these sorts of matters, New Yorkers also have a claim on the drink. Nikita Khrushchev called it "America's Lethal Weapon." So, here I am enjoying a bit of culture, "shaken not stirred." Now you know how I prep for this column.

The February trip on the *Cypress Sea*, was if anything better than our January excursion. This time out we shared the boat with the *San Jose Flipper Dippers*. Our contingent consisted of Norm Knutson, Jim Vallario, Jim Radkey, Gerda and myself. The crew was Captains Dave and Xcott with Kelly aboard as our divemaster and safety diver. Our first dive was at Que Paso, south of Point Lobos. The dive was fairly deep with some of the best scenery in the 100-foot plus range. There were huge *metridium* fields, growing vertically from the wall, kelp greenling, a variety of rockfish and several lingcod rounded out the wildlife.

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200 SFRD OFFICERS

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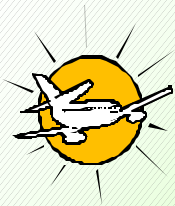
Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:
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San Francisco, CA 94114

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 - <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>19 - <i>General Meeting</i></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 style="background-color: yellow;">19 - General Meeting NEW LOCATION - SINDBAD'S at Pier 2, San Francisco</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 thru 06 - Abalone Opener Van Damme State Park Coordinator: Ray Will - (510) 531-5971 or (510) 595-2120</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>07 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>21 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>18 - <i>General Meeting</i></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 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293</p>	<p>06 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>18 - 20 - Channel Islands - Coordinator: Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784</p>	<p>03 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>04 thru 06 Lake Tahoe Dive Coordinator: Norm - 510.520.3186</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 - <i>General Meeting</i></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 - <i>General Meeting - Officer Nominations !!!</i></p>	<p>04 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>TBD - Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</p> <p>19 - <i>General Meeting - Officer Elections</i></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 - <i>General Meeting - Christmas Party</i></p>

REEF DIVERS ABALONE OPENER WEEKEND

- Date:** Friday, April 4th through Sunday, April 6th, 2003
Location: Van Damme State Park, Mendocino
Directions: It is about 150 miles north of SF (101N ->128W -> 1N) and is about 3 miles south of the town of Mendocino on Highway 1. Turn right at the sign, through the gate, to the campsites, to be selected by the first to arrive Friday. Last year only 5 people spent the night, so paying for a group site is a waste of money. Additional campsites can be reserved if necessary.
- Parking:** Reservations are for 2 cars and 8 people, but with considerate parking we can get more cars close to the site.
- Fees:** The club has paid for the reservations. Members need to contribute \$10, adult guest \$20.
- Saturday Dinner:** As for Reef Diver tradition, there will be a potluck feed Saturday night. Either make your best dish or bring one of the following:
A-F salads
G-M appetizers, desserts, bread
N-Z vegetables, rice, potatoes, beans
- DON'T FORGET:** 2003 Ocean fishing license and the **PUNCH CARD**, ab iron & gauge, camp chairs, stoves & fuel, plates, utensils, cutting boards, sharp knives, pounders, eggs & breadcrumbs, cooking oil, rags & paper towels, large trash bags to wear – ideal for cleaning abalone without getting slimed- camping gear or motel reservations.
- Van Damme is one of the jewels of the State Park system: Great kayaking, diving, hiking, bicycling. Close by Mendocino & Fort Bragg offer restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries and shopping.
- Reservations:** To assure your tent space, seat at the table and parking pass, please call: Ray Will (510) 531-5971 or (510) 595-2120



NEWSFLASH:

REEF DIVERS WARM WATER DIVE TRIP

We'll its time again for another jaunt to a warm water dive destination.
This year's trip will be mid July (exact dates TBD) to mainland Mexico in the city of San Carlos. Absolutely the warmest water I've ever dove in my life. Beautiful reefs, tropical fish and 95 degree water on the Sea of Cortez. It will be a quick (4 nights, 5 days), inexpensive trip (approx. \$1200 including air), with relatively short flights. Send me an email to let me know if you're interested! LorettaLowe@earthlink.net



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 Members

Tanya Ho Wa
Steve Neff
Craig Dockendorf
Peter Hulst
Todd Lefemine

WELCOME!

DRY SUIT FOR SALE

Ahoy there, maties! I just got myself a new dry suit one that fits well and would like to sell a suit that was never quite a good fit on me... I think it would fit someone about an inch shorter than me, better. It is an O'Neill, 7 ml neoprene dry suit a ladies size 10 (medium). I am 5'6" and weigh approx. 135 lbs and have size 8 feet (although I'm sure the boots would work for a somewhat larger or smaller foot). The suit is in excellent condition about 2 years old but is still O'Neill's current style I got it when they first switched over to this design. It has been very well maintained. It is black on black. New, this suit sells for \$799. I'm hoping to get approx. \$350...

Please e-mail or call me directly about this
Kathy Klein
kklein@aftermidnightinc.com
415-265-7493

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)



NEWS FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT CZAR

By Kenneth Gwin

This month will be our first month for a mystery entertainment volunteer dredged from the club membership. To encourage people to actually show up to our meetings (meet and greet, chat, have a beer, etc.), I have asked the membership to join in an active participation in this cause. Volunteer as a meeting entertainment specialist. No pay. No experience necessary. Bring your own audience. So, come on down. Find out who this mystery guest will be.

It could be you next time!

Stammtisch -from page 2

Our second dive was also a deep one, this time at the Butterfly House. I saw some fairly large sponges on this dive and we spent some extra time working our way up the anchor line hanging at 50, 30 and 15 feet to make up for the two deep dives. To get in a little surface interval, Dave cruised down to Pebble Beach and we watched the AT&T Open from some of the best seats in the house. After watching the game for a while and being unable to spot Tiger Woods, we headed to Honeymoon for our last dive of the day. On the way we detoured to watch a couple of gray whales blowing into the air and gracefully arching their flukes as if to wave. After several old faithful displays they slowly arched their backs, tail high in the air and disappeared beneath the seas. At Honeymoon we kept the dive fairly shallow wandering in and out of the canyons running perpendicular to the main reef. Lew and Ramona of the Flipper Dippers waved us over and pointed out a huge wolf

eel. This guy was as big as any that we had seen in Alaska, just a little shyer.

After stowing our gear we wandered over to the British Pub for some chowder and a brew or two. For a change of pace I had a Tetley's cider instead of my usual Guinness. Turns out that the cider works just as well as an electrolyte replenishment vehicle as its darker and slower pouring cousin.

Since last month's newsletter I got a call from our overseas correspondent, Gerda's Dad, bringing to my attention an error in my column. I had misspelled Hans Hass's name. It turns out that Gerda's dad saw what was probably the first public appearance of Hass's films at the Urania, a planetarium built in 1909, which is still in service in Vienna (<http://www.urania-sternwarte.at/index2.html>). This would have been back in the late 1930's, probably 1937 when Gerda's dad was 14 and Hans 18. Hans had built an underwater housing for his camera, possibly a Leica and taken photos while diving on the Yugoslavian coast.



The photos were later published in his first book *Jagd unter Wasser* or *The Underwater Hunt*. In addition to films, in 1942, in collaboration with Dräger (Draeger) Hans became the first to use self-contained diving equipment, a modified oxygen rebreather originally designed for escaping from submarines.

Bhushan's "March Madness" got off to a great start this past weekend. Bhushan is blowing out all the stops and has made reservations for three different days on two weekends at

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Stammtisch – from page 6

Point Lobos, the 9th, 29th and 30th. Goes to show you how much more enthusiastic you can get about diving once you have a dry suit. Gerda and I meet up with Steve, Tanya, Curt, Jim and Bhushan bright and early at Point Lobos. The conditions were spectacular, sunny, clear with just the trace of a breeze to keep things comfortable. Gerda and I slid down the mossy boat ramp and within minutes had five leopard shark sightings and this on our first dive. The visibility was between 30 and 40 feet within the cove. Curt was trying out a set of doubles while Gerda was busy getting used to carrying a stage bottle for her upcoming advanced nitrox class with Captain Phil. In between dives we feasted on olive tapenade, at least three varieties of cheese, one of which looked and smelled suspiciously French in character, prosciutto as well as Pepperidge Farm's gold fish and mini Oreos. In short a gourmand's feast. It was a great day to go diving.

If you haven't gotten wet lately, Gene and Ken are going to conduct an abalone "tune-up" dive specifically geared for folks like me who have never stalked the elusive mollusk. I can hardly wait, just the other day I was at Post Tools checking on how my custom "jaws of life" hydraulic setup was coming along. If the weather cooperates we'll be paddling, diving and at some point barbequing this weekend at Gerstle Cove. Then just in case none of these dives appeals to you, there will be another boat dive on the Cypress Sea on March 22. There are still some slots open, so don't get left behind. Our Minnesota correspondent, Kharmen, will be in town for the April Cypress Charter. It seems she wants the

chance to do some "warm" water diving. If you still don't see a dive on the calendar that appeals to you, schedule that custom dive and get it on the Reefers Rap. Hope to see you on at least one of these dives, until then dive often, dive deep and dive safe.



PT. LOBOS

by Steve Neff

This past Sunday found me at Point Lobos facing my first dive here and my first one with the Reef Divers and at 9:30 I was in the parking lot at Whaler's Cove on a clear day with calm seas and what looked like would finally be my chance to dive Point Lobos - I had made reservations three times before only to be forced to cancel because of weather. This was the day. Bhushan and I were paired up - a fortuitous pairing since we were both relatively new to our dry suits and therefore indulgent of the other stopping suddenly in the water column, fine-tuning buoyancy, and general tinkering with the new toy. In an equipment heavy sport/hobby like ours, pervasive Gadget Loving is a guilty pleasure that some choose to hide or not - I fall somewhere in the middle: I feel weirdly guilty while tinkering.

Visibility in the cove was somewhere in the 40-50 foot range and once we got to about 35 feet we saw two fairly large Leopard Sharks rather calmly watching our approach. The

larger of the two (about 5 feet in length) was the first to move and the smaller one allowed me to pass within 10 feet without being too alarmed. These were the first sharks I'd seen in California waters and they're beautiful - any photos I've seen do no justice to the coloring and the way they move.

Between dives Pierre and Gerda reported that they too had seen some Leopard Sharks, but the alarming part of their dive turned out to be a rather fat and suspiciously watchful Harbor Seal that was tailing them along their dive route. Could this possibly be a recently decommissioned Navy Seal? Pierre voiced his concerns about retirement plans for these highly specialized pinnipeds: are they able to peaceably retire and easily forget the world of humans and their tribulations? Have they possibly chosen sides? But, isn't Pierre Swiss? Surely this well documented and long-standing neutrality, which is surely written across Pierre's face, gave this seal (SEAL!) pause, and after watchful diligence and observing no partisan-related diving, allowed them to continue on their way with no trouble.

Our second dive took us out along the reef of Point Lobos. For those of you that have not made this dive, it's almost a self-parody of California diving: the kelp is KELP, the pinnacles are PINNACLES. It was breathtaking. At the risk of sounding giddy, this was one of the nicest dives I've done in California waters, and really, one of the best I've done in ANY waters.

All in all, a great day diving.

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Pt. Lobos – from page 7

The above illustrates exactly why I joined a dive club in the first place – to get me to new places and meet new people to go there with. A Sincere Thank You to Pierre, Gerda, Jim, Curt, and Bhushan for bringing me along and for giving me some guff about some “longstanding-tradition-about-the-new-member-having-to-write-up-the-dive.” I look forward to giving it to the next one.



PT. LOBOS

by Gerda Hurter

“Viz yesterday was 40 to 50 feet inside and 50 to 60 feet outside of the cove. And we had several leopard shark sightings ...”

Sharks ... sharks the Ranger’s words kept on resounding in my ears.

“Pierre, those are docile, right?”

“Not when they have their pups. ...”

“Why do you think they are in the cove?”

“To have their pups.” (one can always count on Pierre to ease anxiety)

The day had started out very promising. Driving by Monastery, we hardly observed any large surf and Pt. Lobos’ was flat like a mirror reflecting the

bright and sunny skies of a brilliant Sunday morning. Conditions could not have been any better.

As the cars rolled to a stop in the parking lot a larger than normal contingency of Reef Divers (Jim, Curt, Bushan, Tanya, Steven, Pierre and myself) met up to plan out the days adventure. We had three teams going with a focus on practicing diving skills. Curt to get ready for a trimix class, Bushan and Steve to get acquainted with the intricacies of their new dry suits and moi, to practice the deployment of a lift bag and the use of a stage bottle.

So, off we went, swimming out in the middle of the cove and dropping down to a ‘staggering’ 38 feet to start our dive. Keeping NW we swam over the rippled sandy bottom until we approached some strewn out rocks covered with old kelp holdfasts and single stalks reaching to the surface. The water was cloudy at times, teeming with tiny krill and the bigger prey hanging around. Sunrays penetrated the surface and danced along the bottom putting highlights on distinctive spots, SPOTS?!? Yes, indeed, a *triakis semifasciatus*, or leopard shark. Pierre and I saw it at the same time, he or she (the shark that is) most likely had noticed us some time ago, while quietly hovering over the sand. We slowly swam along side of it when it suddenly kicked its tail fin and took off, gliding gracefully through the water, then circling back to the spot it had lain, seemingly motionless, before. What an awesome sight. This guy was 4 to 5 feet long and beautifully marked. We encountered him/her or his friends several more times and at

one time we did see two of them together.

I guess I did get quite taken by these fellows because I had to look up more tidbits about this species. So here it goes. These sharks belong the family of hound sharks and do team up with dogfish sharks. Their habitat is the Pacific Coast ranging from Oregon to Baja California. They can grow up to 6.5 feet, are distinctly marked with dark brown spots on a silver gray background. When they get large enough to leave the shallows for the deep waters, they will, remarkably, lose their spots.



Their body is slim with a narrow head and they have small, sharp teeth, which are sharp enough to puncture skin. Their preferred prey contains crustaceans, fish, worms and clams. Their young are born live after developing from eggs within the female in spring.

What a dive!

p.s. I did practice skills, but I thought you would rather read about the sharks ...

**DIVING OAHU,
HAWAII**

by Norm Knutson



Another business trip and finally a chance to bring my dive gear and try some diving in some

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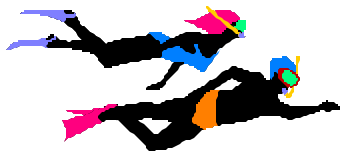
Diving Oahu – from page 8

warmer water. Because this is the Winter time in Hawaii, I could not dive the North shore which I think is pretty good diving. The waves are running up to 30 ft at times on the North shore, so I booked a trip with Capt. Bruce's dive charters, on the West shore of Oahu. Our first dive was to the Mahi, a 165 ft. mine layer that was sunk in 1982.

This is one of those ships that is OK to enter and not worry about getting lost. Saw lots of Eagle Rays cruising along the ships hull. Water temp was around 65 F. The next three dives were along some coral gardens and lava tubes where we ran into a couple of 6 ft. white tip reef sharks. The vis was at least 80 ft. and the boat only had 5 divers but could carry 20. Unlike the Channel Islands, you follow the dive master on these dives.

Capt. Bruce runs a great operation, food, drinks, pineapple (of course) and a dive master who explained a lot of stuff regarding the fish, geology and etc. One of the dives was by James Arness's house (the sheriff in Gunsmoke, 60s TV Western, I know, I'm showing my age again). Anyways, I would recommend this dive operation. This is my second time diving with them.

p.s. Even my wife Lupe (non-diver) saw a shark in 100 ft. of



water. This was accomplished via the Atlantis tourist submarine near Waikiki and was cruising around the wreck YO-257.

MORE ON THE DO NOTHING SCHOOL OF ABALONE DIVING

By Kenneth Gwin

I always look forward to abalone season. And, once again, it is coming with the spring.

Several years ago, I wrote a piece for the newsletter about my "do nothing" approach to freediving. With the club dominated by tank divers, this is a skill that is often glossed over in the current training programs, and might not even be considered as a fun option for diving. Of course, there are alternative approaches to freediving like the "rhino diver school" that pits man against sea monster in a battle for survival in an ocean jungle. But, I'm looking at the finesse side. I try to make it look easy.

My first rule is always, no matter what, at least look like you know what you're doing.

I must start off with a caution about the potential hazards of abalone diving without the proper preparation, guidance, or training. But, it's so much fun when done safely. So, on this note, I would like to review some points from that earlier article.

I know there are a lot of experienced divers in the club, but there are a few new divers too, or divers new to ab diving.

If anyone has questions on "how to," I'm sure there is plenty of advice out there. There are many approaches, but it is still diving pared down to basics in a very tough environment.

We can make it easy.

A lot of people think it's fun.

Most everyone who doesn't dive for abalone thinks it's nuts. Every year, a few people die. Breath hold diving is the only method permitted, and quite simply, there you are.

Breath hold, or freediving is the essence of diving. But, here you are stuck with very physical limits.

A mask. A knife. An ab iron. Cold water. Some borrowed air. Some people just take to jumping into turbulent 50 degree water, rain or shine, with a whole range of visibility issues. Others think it's a serious scary thing. It's the real world out there. Theories fall apart. Buddy diving usually means you can just see the other guys' float.

Things happen.

There is a whole list of things to think about. You have to be self-reliant. But, freediving is supposed to be the essential quest for relaxation in the water. No matter what you're doing.

While abalone diving, this fact is not usually obvious. Besides double checking your equipment, a few ambitious trips to the pool with your fins might be my first thought. Get in shape. Practice very efficient surface dives. Get inverted and swim straight down as smoothly as possible. Refine your fin strokes. Spend less energy.

Slow down. Relax. In the ocean, stay buoyant on the surface.

For ab diving, drop about 20% of the lead you would use SCUBA diving in the same wetsuit. You want to be neutrally buoyant at depth, not on the surface. You

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Abalone Diving – from page 9

may think it's now harder to get down, bobbing around and all, but it'll be much easier getting up. You should be able to lie effortlessly at the depth you expect to get abalone. 15-20, 30, 40, whatever. The deeper you will be diving, the more weight you will have to remove. Even if you will be diving shallow, you should still be able to fully exhale and confidently float on the surface with absolutely no effort.

No effort.

Practice full and slow inhalations and exhalations.

Take a full inhalation and slip underwater with the minimum of fuss, wasted energy, and splashing. Full rhythmic breaths, full inhalation, invert and swim smoothly straight to the bottom. Equalize your ears and mask continuously. Stay compact, streamlined.

Relax.

Don't push further than your comfort level. Concentrate on staying relaxed, efficient. Pull yourself down kelp stalks to save energy, if this helps you. Make it as easy as possible. Before you go out, consider a low volume mask. Consider long fins with a full foot pocket and neoprene socks instead of open heel SCUBA fins. (No buckles, less snags, and they swim much better.) Pick a float or a boogie board that you like. Don't take anything out in the ocean you don't need. You don't have to go in if you are not comfortable with the conditions on that day.

Even after driving that far. Go have a nice lunch instead. Relax.

And after you learn to relax, then learn to deal with swells, surge, bad viz, the incredibly menacing



kelp monster that grabs at your mask and fins when you're not looking. And, if the canopy grows in like last year, don't forget to swim towards the light.

“THEY CALL HIM FLIPPER, FLIPPER, FASTER THAN LIGHTNING ...”

Well it turns out that Flipper who ended his TV run back in September of 1967 may have been a bit of a con artist. First it turns out that Flipper was a female named Mitzi, although a male body double, Mr. Gripper, did all of the more explicit tail walking scenes.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the famous sound Flipper made was probably the doctored soundtrack of an Australian kookaburra. Dolphins don't have vocal cords; they certainly don't make noises like good old Flipper did.

SEA LIONS MOBILIZED FOR DUTY WITH THE 5TH FLEET IN THE GULF

Zak, a 385-pound U.S. Navy sea lion is the latest recruit to get his marching orders for duty in the Persian Gulf. A recent graduate of the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in San Diego, the sea lion along with the rest of his

graduating class was flown to Manama, Bahrain to detect and possibly detain anyone trying to imperil U.S. ships or sailors.

The animals are trained to alert their human handlers when they detect intruding divers and to mark the intruders with a C-shaped clamp, which attaches to the diver like a handcuff. The sea lion then deploys a surface marker buoy and lets his human shipmates do the rest.

The animals will be on trial for the next several weeks to determine if they can do in the field what they have been trained to do in school. Lets hope that none of these California sea lions retire to the Monterey area after their overseas hitches in the service are completed.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SWIMSUIT ISSUE

Sports Illustrated has been selling its swimsuit edition since 1964. Last year it sold 50 million or so and expects to do the same. So has the National Geographic decided to jump on the bandwagon?

National Geographic is publishing a swim suite edition of its own complete with a cover shot consisting of three carefully placed cockle shells, some clinging sand and the obligatory beach background. It's the history of the bathing suit with photos featuring head to toe wool suits of the turn of the century to the “itsy-bitsy teeny-weeny orange polka dot bikini” of song.

The edition is expected to sell around 250,000 copies. For those who prefer the Sports Illustrated version, it will be available later this year.





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.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 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