



CYPRESS SEA MARCH 03

by Gerda Hurter, courtesy of Armin Luggin

It all started so innocently ...



"Amazing how serious Armin can look at times ..." Todd thought. ...
"Geee, Armin, hurry up! This second doughnut is killing me!!" Pierre thought.

... until just before the first dive...

... to find out more, turn to page 8



SOME MORE AND CURRENT NOTES FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT CZAR

By Kenneth Gwin

Entertainment for May will be the result of much thoughtful consideration on my part. After the last fun and exciting deep dive with Curtis detailed in this issue, I thought I would balance things out again by refocusing on freediving. But, this time while looking at ab diving and the like, I'd like to inspire every one by showing some video of extreme deep freediving from my library. If anyone has seen the movie "The Big Blue," read anything about Tanya Streeter or Pipin, then they already know what I'm talking about. I'll be showing a collection of pieces, but highlighting a deep attempt by Umberto Pelizzari. This guy can swim.

DER STAMMTISCH



It's Mayday and most of the rest of the world are busily celebrating the working stiff. As with so many things we do things a little differently, we wait until September to do our celebrating. Making history fit our needs is something that's been practiced throughout the ages. Traditionally the first of May signaled the beginning of spring. The day celebrated the spring planting, *Walpurgisnacht*, the night of the witches. In England they erected a Maypole and danced, and then some, in a riotous celebration of fertility. It's always been a day of tumult and celebration, from the May Pole to the Haymarket Square. So what will you be doing to celebrate? I'll be diving off of the Cypress Sea on the 24th, not quite the first of May, but close enough. Sign up now and seize the day.

There's something interesting going on with our Cypress Charters, they are filling up fast. April was full early in the month and May is almost full as I type this. It's probably a seasonal phenomenon it is spring after all. Gerda and I played hooky the day before our April boat trip. We drove down on Friday to join up with Captain Phil's advanced nitrox class. Club members Gerda and Dionna as well as John were taking the class. I got to tag along as an entry in the "significant other" category, just like when you go to a convention and they have trips to the outlet mall for the spouses. This was much better; we motored out to Hopkin's Reef on Phil's "shoot and scoot". If you have never seen his boat, watch one of those Navy recruiting clips on TV where the steely eyed young men jump from helicopters and get picked up at sea, it's that kind of boat. I love this boat, skimming across the seas to get where you want to be and back in a flash. The surface conditions were grim as the intrepid class hit the water and descended into the green of the bay.

The first dive was spent reeling out and back, leapfrogging from one diver's reel to the next. For those of you who have wondered what all these reels are all about, it's a great tool when the visibility gets poor or for those who are directionally challenged.

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REEFER RAP

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
01 - New Year's Day Dive - Point Lobos 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat 15 - <i>General Meeting</i>	05 - Officer's Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) 15 - Ed Cooper Memorial 19 - <i>General Meeting</i>	05 - Officer's Meeting 09 - Pt. Lobos 19 - <i>General Meeting NEW LOCATION -</i> 22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat 29 & 30 - Pt. Lobos
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
02 - Officer's Meeting 04 through 06 - Abalone Opener 16 - <i>General Meeting</i> 26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat	07 - Officer's Meeting 21 - <i>General Meeting - SINDBAD'S on Pier 2, San Francisco</i> 24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293	04 - Officer's Meeting 18 - <i>General Meeting</i> 22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Abalone Closer
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
02 - Officer's Meeting 16 - <i>General Meeting</i> 26 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293	06 - Officer's Meeting 20 - <i>General Meeting</i> 18 - 20 - Channel Islands - Coordinator: Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784	03 - Officer's Meeting 06 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Alcatraz swim/paddle Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 17 - <i>General Meeting</i>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
01 - Officer's Meeting 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 15 - <i>General Meeting - Officer Nominations !!!</i>	04 - Officer's Meeting TBD - Annual Sea Ranch Weekend 19 - <i>General Meeting - Officer Elections</i> 23 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Abalone Closer	03 - Officer's Meeting 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat Coordinator: Pierre - 415.285.6293 17 - <i>General Meeting - Christmas Party</i>

NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

By now....

You should have received your very own and personal SFRD Membership Card 2003. Also included was an embroidered patch with the SFRD logo on it. These patches have an adhesive backing on them that can simply be heated with an iron and should hold in position. For a more secure attachment of the patch, I recommend sawing it to your favorite garment or hat. Enjoy

In an ongoing effort to provide our members with exciting new ideas, promotions, and discounts, we will be expanding our search for items beyond our local territory. Soon you will find more listings of stores and dive stores that support our dive club and maybe even offer a free air fill. More to come.

Special thanks to Roman Mueller, for his support and help on getting the very difficult task of laminating our SFRD membership cards (photo) done. Roman, an exchange tourist from Switzerland, was so excited about the work, that he has accepted an other term for the next year's position as "SFRD Laminator". Thank you again.



If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact the membership chair directly. Thank you and "plenty air"

Armin



NO, I DON'T MIND STAYING INSIDE THE BAY!

by Kathy Klein

Frank always wants to race around that corner, meaning Pt. Peños, in order to get down to Carmel Bay to dive. But I'm quite content to stay in Monterey Bay, feeling I've hardly exhausted the options. Heck, I've been diving around here for five years now but, having not done the Breakwater beach dive thing more than once or twice, I've never even seen the Metridium Fields. So, with the weather being a little uncooperative for the past two weekends, and no one else on the boat to impress but me, Frank conceded to stay in Monterey Bay.

Two Saturdays ago (April 26th), the water was more uncooperative than the weather. We had a bright sunny day but fairly heavy surface chop, surprising even in Monterey Bay which is usually quite placid. We were having a lazy kind of day, we moseyed down to the Breakwater late enough to purchase an \$8 rather than a \$12 two-space ticket.

We motored around a bit, but wound up chatting with Chuck Tribolet who was anchored just off the end of the Breakwater at the site of a sunken barge that neither Frank nor I had ever seen. Chuck, who is something of a local phenomenon when it comes to knowing and sharing the GPS locations of just about every spot worth diving from the Hotels to

Yankee Point, told us he'd make sure we dropped our anchor 'on the barge but not through it!' (Before I impugn Chuck's reputation, I'll recommend his much appreciated Web site at www.garlic.com/~triblet/swell/gps.html for a comprehensive GPS coordinate listing of the best dive sites in Monterey.)

After waving a fond farewell to Chuck and his buddy, who had told us to look for the big wolf eel about two-thirds of the way toward the bow of the barge, on the starboard side, Frank and I descended down our carefully placed anchor line and found, in the 15 feet (maybe) of viz... Sand. Lots of sand. Sand with holes in it, from each of which was waving a tentacle (brittle stars, I believe) that seemed to be dancing to the tune of a ditty that goes, 'Foolish airbreathers ha-ha-ha...' And a large hermit crab making off with a whelk shell skittered past, as we navigated a square in search of the elusive barge... After 20 minutes of counting kick cycles and checking our compasses, we decided to ascend, not surprisingly winding up fifty yards from the boat having had no natural navigation aids and a little bit of current running. By the time we got back to the boat, a foursome of divers had arrived, dropped anchor a few feet away from ours, and was ready to descend. Well Frank and I still each had plenty of air left, and that gung-ho spirit, so down we went, this time following THEIR anchor line, which brought us directly to the edge of the wreck.

The Barge is an interesting dive site, situated at about 65' depth and surrounded by sand. According to Chuck T., The story is that the Barge is an old wooden sailing ship whose masts were removed and was being used as a

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Inside the Bay – from page 4

cargo barge when it sank. There are charred portions, so it would seem to have burned before it sank. Interestingly, I can't find any reference to it in any of my Monterey County shipwreck resources. There's also a story that it's the ship that rescued Napoleon from Elba, but THAT ship washed up on Del Monte Beach and is still buried in the sand there. Lots of sea life calls the barge home, but you have to get your belly down to the sand and peek under the old timbers to spy the best critters, including many varieties of rockfish, crabs, nudibranchs, stars, etc. Unfortunately, we missed the wolf eel. Because it was really our second consecutive dive, we ran out of bottom time well before we ran out of air.

We'll definitely go back to dive the Barge again, but we learned a good lesson when we went back to look for the other dive group's anchor. They had been clever enough, as we will be when we go back, to attach a line and spool to their anchor, then set the spool on the barge itself where they would be sure to find it. This was critical in their case, because they had not set their anchor well and it had dragged several yards away from the barge by the time we followed the line back to it. It would have been quite difficult to find, without a guide line, in the poor visibility. By the time Frank and I were back in our own boat, we had watched the other boat drift further and further away from where it had originally been, dragging the anchor across the bottom with it. Without the guide line, those divers would never have found their anchor and would have had a very long surface swim across an area of heavy boat traffic near the end of the Breakwater.

This past Sunday, May 3, we had miserable weather to start the day with, rainy, overcast, and cold < but, undaunted, we headed out for Aumentos Reef and had a fabulous, 50-minute dive there with about 25-30' of visibility. Aumentos is beyond Eric's Reef and further toward the center of the mouth of Monterey Bay, not far from Pt. Peños. There are rocks there in about 60' of water rising up to about 30' that are beautifully encrusted in all shades of purple and rose and peach corals, sponges, and anemones, as well as big white metridium and a host of sea stars. Frank found an octopus in a crevice, we had an excellent sculpin encounter (one of those ugly fish, cabezon, brown irish lord, scorpion fish, I haven't learned to identify the differences yet), and we saw an enormous ling cod, about 3' long with a head as large around as mine. Many, many interesting nudibranchs, including one I've not been able to identify, iridescent white body about 2' long with a violet fan along its back tinged in orange, anybody seen this one?

Our second dive was off the Aquarium and was nearly as nice as the first. We were buzzed by a happy harbor seal, saw a squadron of sheepsheads (which seem to be getting rare in these parts), and ended the dive with a beautiful brown jelly puffing past, trailing a good 10' of tentacles.

And, by the end of the day, the sun was shining!



Stammtisch - from page 2

The next task on the list was to hover at a predetermined depth and switch to the 50% O₂ stage bottles slung over the left shoulder. It all sounds simple, but when you're in the water trying to maintain your depth and you begin to develop an appreciation for what the term "task loading" means.

The second dive found us off of McAbee beach. Once again we practiced some more reel work. To add to the excitement we did some out of air drills. This is one of those skills most of us don't practice, since "it will never happen to me." Maybe, but it happened to me once and I'm not the sort you see wandering down the side of the freeway with a gas can in hand. OK, it happened once, on my first date with Gerda and we were nowhere near any sort of romantic "lover's point." You can imagine my surprise when she whipped a pair of sneakers out of her purse and said, "let's go." I've always wondered what secrets lurked at the bottom of the modern woman's purse, a Leatherman, duct tape, chapstick, some Vise-grips? Back to the class, after reeling and hovering we deployed SMB's (surface marker buoys). This is where I headed towards the surface and deflated the buoys as fast as they could be deployed to give the rest of the class some practice. About this time, a large sea otter backstroked over to watch what I was doing. He seemed curious and slightly puzzled. He certainly hung around long enough.

After the class Dionna, Gerda and I headed to the Sea Harvest fish market for a late lunch early dinner. We spent the night in Pacific Grove and early the next morning made our way to the

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Stammtisch – from page 5

Fisherman's Wharf and the Cypress Sea. With Captain Phil at the helm and the San Jose Flipper Dippers sharing the other half of the boat we set sail looking for the perfect dive site. After wandering around a bit we dropped anchor at Stillwater Cove for our first dip. Gerda, Jim, Steve and I dropped down the anchor chain into peas soup greed waters with about 10 feet of visibility. Gerda broke out her reel, tied off to a nearby rock and took off like a shot. For the second dive we headed back towards the bay and anchored at Aumentos, a spot just a little shy of Lover's Point. The visibility didn't improve any, so once again out came the reel. Who would have thought that the class work the day before would come in handy so quickly. If you have never tried it, a reel is great when the visibility is poor. Why dive in pea soup you might ask? Any day spent diving is better than a day in the office, well almost. Our last dive was at Outer Lover's. This looks like it would be a great place to revisit when the visibility is a little better.

After docking we regrouped at the London Pub for my customary "electrolyte" replenishment, there's something about a Guinness. We also sampled several of the tastier fried food groups, fish, chips and calamari. I'm already looking forward to the next boat dive on the 24th, hope to see some of you there.

We begin the month in celebration and we end it in remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 and first observed on the 30th of the same month when flowers were placed on the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers at

Arlington National Cemetery. The cemetery had been Robert E' Lee's estate before the war. Like many holidays, we have moved it around to make it into another three-day weekend. Still, it is worth remembering that in the aftermath of the most brutal war that America has ever fought, a war that pitted brothers against each other, we laid aside the politics and passions of the moment and gave pause to remember the sacrifice of those who will never again enjoy the first days of spring.

**ANSWERING THE
CALL OF THE ABYSS**

Lobos dive report 5/01/03
by Kenneth Gwin

I've been talking to our own Curtis Degler (**also see page 8**) for a few years now about the pleasures of diving the deep pinnacles off Pt. Lobos. Any body who has been out to the edges of Cannery Point and the rocks and ridges out past the mouth of Whaler's Cove knows there is something special and dramatic calling from the depths.

The big boulders and shear cliffs you see on postcards are just a preview of what lies on the bottom. The picturesque landscape of Lobos is repeated again, and again, but hidden from view deep below the surface of the waves. Here, the whole ocean floor tips ever more radically until everything slides into the ominous Trench, a remarkably short distance from shore.

Again, a couple of years ago, Curtis and I went with Paul Braunbehrens, a friend of mine, on his boat to dive the Great Pinnacle. This is a spot straight out from Blue Fish Cove and is the classic underwater Matterhorn starting at 45' a deep ledge at 90'

and a straight fall to 170. Curtis is an experienced cave diver, but deep was never his thing. Now we had him nudging the 130' mark while hanging over this deep drop off, the rock and sand bottom below humming the mysterious siren call of the abyss. I knew this was a teaser.

It was only a matter of time.

(Read Curtis' own account of his triumphant return to the Great Pinnacle in last month' Reef Diver Times.)

Now Curtis has completed his Trimix course. 200'?—he's good to go.

So we met Phil Sammet and Gordon Robinson (from the Marin Scuba Club) at Lobos with our agreed upon dive plan to try a spot north of a pinnacle called E3 (named for all the elephant ears covering the rocks at this spot). We figured this would be a good day.

Conditions between storms looked good. Calm, nearly dead flat seas. Warm surface conditions. Pleasantly sunny skies. Ahhh!

This is where the diving really gets interesting.

We loaded Phil's inflatable with all of our gear. Doubles. stage bottles (50% and 100% O2), argon bottles for suit inflation, and canister lights.

Using only a depth finder, a compass, and dead reckoning, Captain Phil motored slowly across the gentle swells examining blips on the depth finder. We dropped anchor on a high spot at 140'.

If cold water sport divers find their equipment constricting, this assortment of tools and paraphernalia must be at least described as cumbersome. It looks impossible on the surface, but all this stuff actually flies nicely underwater.

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The Abyss – from page 6

Down the nearly vertical line we find the anchor just over the top of the reef, exactly at 140. Turning back and to the right, Phil runs a line over the top of this mountainous rock covered with screaming orange colored encrustations. Peeking over the rim, it's clean blue water ahead and a straight drop to 200' below.

I love this kind of diving.

I know what was going through Curtis' head as depth gauges ticked off--165, 175, 185, 195, yowwy, 205'! Visibility was 70' or more. We were swimming across a vast rubble field of giant boulders, rosy rockfish, giant coppers, vermilion, little cookie stars, brittle stars, cushion stars, small gorgonians, psychedelic sun stars, all surrounded by the silent, still calm of the deep ocean in an alien twilight.

Looking back toward the surface I could see the diffused dance of light playing down rock walls and overhangs, sunlight and soft focus, as my exhaust bubbles disappear far up and into the distance.

Without cameras we brought back no proof of the various large vase sponges (one the size of a beer keg) growing on the rocks in

this otherworld. Phil and Gordon found some crinoids (feather stars). (Gordon remarked later that he was "ho-hum" about this at the time, since he had just come back from a South Pacific trip and these are common and everywhere in the tropics at shallow depths. Here you only see them starting around 200' in cold water. What does all of this mean?)

I saw a beautiful small fish while following the line, cruising back after our turn around point. For a moment, I too, thought I was in the tropics (or at least So. Cal. where you see high contrast, banded or striped fish). This one was about 1 1/2" long, bronze-black with bright white lateral stripes, and band at the base of the tail. Quite a stunning little fish. It popped out of the reef for a moment and disappeared.

(Going back to Human, for reference after the dive, the only thing resembling this [and conveniently well photographed] was a juvenile yellow eye rockfish. This fish doesn't look at all like its adult counterpart.) This was a pleasant little surprise on an otherwise very pleasant dive.

Back to the anchor line and doing really well on our time plan, we made our slow and staged ascent back to the surface.



Lots of small transparent jellies on the hang. Visibility was down to 15' or so. Curt playing "pop the bag" at 20' somehow managed to disappear in the gray fog of plankton and invertebrate soup while we slowly and dutifully followed the line up.

At the surface we could see him safely in the distance. Of course, we took our time getting out of our gear, playing a hand of cards, some scissors-paper-stone, stowing everything away, and pulling the anchor before finally getting around to chasing down Curtis.

Really, he was about half way back to the boat. He says "I coulda made it." Well, he coulda. But, now he answers to the name, "By the Wind Sailor."

205' for 20 minutes bottom time. 74 minutes total dive time. 48 degree water. Visibility, 70'+.

Wow!

REMINDER OF GREAT OFFER BY OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS, THE ALCOSTA DIVERS

Last month's club meeting featured a presentation by Susan Carter and John Purnell of the Alcosta Dive Club. They showed slides of club activities around their annual trip to Santa Catalina Island. (I'll call it the Crown Jewel of California's Channel Islands.)

They have invited us to stay with them at the Emerald Bay "luxury" camp at the west end of the island just a short inflatable ride from Two Harbors at the isthmus.

Dates: September 6-13th.

This is a great time of the year for diving in Southern California, and a great place to dive. Pricing is a cost only opportunity and runs about \$675 for divers (\$600 for non-divers) and includes food and air fills. There is prorated pricing for people who wish to stay a portion of the week. Transportation to Catalina and

recreational drinks are not provided. The club owns three inflatables that give everybody a great opportunity to dive the entire (premier) area of the West End.

Susan Carter can be contacted at 415 647 9036 of Susan.Carter@ucop.edu.

Cypress See 03 – from page 1



**PLAYGIRL'S MAN OF THE YEAR
Revealed!!**

... Testosterone was running high ...



No Comment

...which was promptly reported ...



Gerda: "Really, it's true Pierre. Curt's new ambition is to become a model!" ... "Hmm, I see, I see, and he just finished a trimix course ... hmm" muttered Pierre while Todd was looking on "And I really joined this club?"

... peer pressure was running high ...



"Curt? You've got to be kiddin'! I better start showing of those biceps!" Peter was overheard grumbling...



No comment

The End

SPONTANEOUS DIVING

by Bhushan Mudbhary

OK. So we are a dive club. The key being diving. And kudos to Curtis Degler for being the webmaster - so I decided to get wet over the weekend of May 10th., and put out a feeler on a Friday afternoon. Nice thing about diving - all you really need is one buddy, more would be better, but one can make do with one.

Robert Foster - our guy in Oakland. He said he would do it. Sure, he was up for diving Sunday May 11. Great. So we hatch the plan - 9:30AM Aquarius dive shop off of Del Monte. I check out Chuck T's web page - come away reeling. That boy is all over diving, like white on rice.

Sunday arrives, 9:30 AM approaches, I pull into Aquarius. Robert's already there. Chatting up the shop crew. I get my tanks, two steel 80s. We head for the Break Water, and why not? It is there after all. Breakwater looks solid. Low tide, calm and clear waters. Robert beats me to a great parking spot on the main lot where the boats and trailers are. Bastard, I say. But then I score one too. We are parked, suited and ready to go. Our Nikonos dangling from our BCs, black dry suits and black hoods.

We did the wall. Swam around the corner. Descended to 25+ ft of water. Visibility 15ft. Cabezons and Ling Cod were sighted. As were tube worms, starfish and the sort. We swim along leisurely taking pictures. Turn around and head back. Visibility gets better. A big fish under a cavern. A swim thorough actually if one so chose. I did not. Robert heads for the surface towards the end, I stay below but visible. A cabezon is guarding a

kelp stump in the sand. I take two shots, the fish gives away no ground. I proceed towards the exit.

Lunch break. We think about next dive. Decide the kelp beds of Break Water. There's a guy called Peter. He has a boat. He was there too, but his buddies bailed on him. And it sucks to have the boat in the water and not go diving. So, Robert and I, we hooked up with boat. We provide the company, Peter the boat. And we were off, to Eric's Rock Dammit (ERD).

It was getting choppy. But we made it. Later Monterey Express joined us. Much later Cypress Sea joined us. We dove ERD. Beautiful dive. We found shelter on the inside. Wall encrusted with stuff. Horned Nudibranchs everywhere. Good thing Robert and I had changed our cameras to macro. Robert did a head shot of a cabezon. Viz was about 20 ft. I hope some of my shots come out. We ascend.

Back on land. Goodbyes are said. I head out. I like the PCH. I take it up to San Francisco, every time from Monterey if I drive down. A great way to end the day, taking up the beautiful coastline. And here's the secret - stop by to pick up a cup of real good coffee in Santa Cruz, hit the PCH, put on some cool tunes. It works. All is well.



MIKE NELSON'S ARGONAUT WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Back in 1960 the syndicated weekly TV show, Sea Hunt, was in its third season and it was time

for something new. Things had changed since the show began in 1958 and Mike Nelson, was due for a new boat. Lloyd Bridges, star of Sea Hunt was looking for a boat that would be first class in every way. The result was the *Argonaut*, a brand new 33-foot Trojan Sea Breeze Model 346 Express Cruiser custom built and delivered to Ziv Productions in Hollywood California, on Sept. 21, 1960.

The original Trojan Boat Company was located in Lancaster Pennsylvania and no longer exists today. The result of their work was Trojan ship serial number 1018. A boat that Lloyd Bridges used throughout the series and as a family boat once the show had ended. The boat is still with us. It is currently located in San Diego where beginning in 2000 it was put into dry-dock for a complete restoration. It is being restored to all original condition, complete with depth finder, marine radio and sonar. Even the original twin Crusader engines still work.

If you are interested in more information, check out this web site ...
<http://www.seahuntadventures.com/>



MARLIN SPEARS WHALE EXPERT OFF THE COAST OF MAUI

What more can you say? Mark Ferrari, a well-known whale researcher was speared by a

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Floatsom – from page 9

marlin while filming about 3 miles off the West Maui coast. Ferrari was videotaping a pod of false killer whales attacking a 10 to 15-foot marlin. When one of the whales attacked the marlin, the Marlin turned and attacked Ferrari. False killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) are actually dolphins. They generally prefer deeper waters and are relatively rare in Hawaii.

FEMTO-SECOND

If you remember last months article about Curt Degler's exploits with the United States Coast Guard, you may have noticed his reference to a "femto second". Well I was curious, what sort of unit of time was this anyway? Was it related to the infamous

New York minute? Turns out that a femto-second is to the blink of an eye what the blink of an eye is to two million years. The duration of a femto-second is something in the order of 25 quadrillionth of a second (10^{-16}). Or as one wag phrased it think of it as the division of a second into slivers of time equal to approximately the same number of letters in 224 Bibles. So there you have it, quicker than a New York minute by far, Curt Degler's femto-second.

Boiling Lobsters could be prosecuted in Canada

If the Canadian governments cruelty to animals bill is passed in its current form it might become a crime to boil lobsters. The bill is the first serious attempt in more than 100 years to Update Canada's Criminal Code concerning cruelty to animals. The concern is that portions of the legislation are too vague and

could lead to farmers and those cooking lobsters to be prosecuted. As is often the case, the devil is in the details.

**ALASKA RADIO STATION
BROADCASTS WHALE
SOUNDS**

Sitka radio station KAQU is broadcasting the underwater sounds of the ocean near Whale Park. The station is a low-powered FM station of 100 watts and was started by a group of West Coast marine mammal biologists.

The new station is set up with a hydrophone in 80 to 90 feet of water. The signal has a range of roughly 5 miles, so if you find yourself in Sitka, tune into 88.1 and check out the top-ten cephalopod hits.

**JAPANESE WHALERS
BEGIN THE ANNUAL HUNT**

By now a fleet of Japanese whaling ships are well on their way towards the countries northeast coast with the aim of killing 50 minke whales. The hunt is scheduled to last 40 days and will be followed up with a three-month hunt in the eastern North Pacific where a further 100 minke whales as well as 50 Brydes, 50 sei and 10 sperm whales are to be taken. The fleet had recently returned from a cruise, which netted 440 whales.

Since an International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling came into effect in 1986, Japan has continued whaling under the pretext of "scientific research", depute the fact that the bulk of the whale meat ends up on dinner plates in high-end Tokyo restaurants. The government has shared little of the "scientific"

data with the international community. For more information see the website ... www.ifaw.org.

**CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY
GENERAL SUES
RESTAURANTS OVER FISH**

The attorney general filled suit against 16 restaurants companies for serving swordfish, tuna and shark that contain high levels of mercury.

The lawsuits were filled in Los Angeles and San Francisco after restaurant fish samples were found to have mercury levels exceeding those allowed under Proposition 65. That state proposition requires that businesses provide warnings before exposing people to known carcinogens and reproductive toxins.

The restaurants and companies named include the Cheesecake Factory, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Chili's, Macaroni Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Roy's, Morton's, Chart House, Bennigans. Benihana's and McCormick & Schmick Management Group.

Just to put it into perspective, this is the same proposition, which warns you to wipe the top of your wine bottle before drinking, and warns of the dangers of lead contamination from drinking out of crystal decanters and glasses. Next time Gerda tells me to drink from a glass rather than the bottle or can, I can retort that it is a safety issue.





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.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

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
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 (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 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