

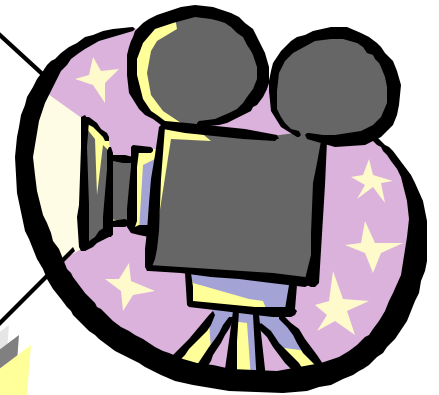


MAY ENTERTAINMENT

A number of club members have been to British Columbia, and more are on their way soon. Even our current President Pierre and Patient Wife and Newsletter Editor Gerta are planning an extended dive trip to Shamu World this summer. It's certainly at the top of my list of West Coast cold water destinations. Originally I had invited Sami Laine and Clinton Bauder to share their recent adventures (including hanging out with the famous Champagne drinking octopus), but something about work has come up and Sami somehow feels obligated to comply with these obligations.

Clinton, luckily, has no such conflicts. So, Clinton will go it alone and show a combination of stills and video, highlighting their various trips to British Columbia.

Kenneth Gwin



**We hate to see her go, but Kharmen has decided to move with her job back East. This leaves us with one dive buddy less here in the West, but with one B&B in Minneapolis to be visited!!!
We'll miss ya and wish you the best of Luck!**

WANTED MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Meet and greet potential Reefers! If you have an enthusiasm for diving and enjoy conversations with new people, this is a position for you. As the Membership Chairperson, you'll join the ranks of our officers in promoting the joys and advantages of being an SF Reef Diver. Beware that your excuse of not being able to find a buddy may become invalid since you'll know everyone who passes through our doors. You're doomed to be diving all the time! Plus, **you'll be on the VIP list** to join in on the monthly feasts at the Officers Meetings. For further information, please contact Kharmen Roman at (415) 519-4655 or kharmenr@melibe.com

Presidence Corner



Sunday afternoon found me sitting on our deck musing on the vagaries of life. First, to the cynics amongst you, yes, it is possible to sit outside in San Francisco and enjoy it. Just ask anyone who has ever lived in the Mission, South Beach or here in Noe Valley. Gerda was enjoying her Martini while I sipped on an exceedingly fine Kentucky sour mash bourbon. It's not known who was the first to distill *usige beatha* (water of life), the Scots or the Irish, but we do know that the mass migrations to the United States brought whiskey to the New World. Unlike the more genteel single malts from Scotland or the smooth whiskeys from Ireland, bourbon is, as my uncle used to say "God's gift to America." Drowned it with some "branch," throw it "on the rocks" or add lemon juice for another classic. So where is all this leading? We are a nation that brought bourbon and the Martini to life, the Martini right here in the Bay area. So why can't we get a decent turnout for the abalone opener?

Gerda and I played hooky from work and wandered up the coast to Mendocino. Naturally we drove through Anderson Valley so that we could pick up a case of Gewürztraminer at the Navarro Winery and some champagne at Roderer Estates. I love the names they give to bottles of champagne, not the individual servings like splits and magnums, but the biblical offerings like Jeroboam and Methusalem and then there's my favorite, the Nebuchadnezzar. Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, was a man who according to the Old Testament could tackle four bottles at a sitting. So you can imagine how I felt when the only Reefers camping out

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2002 SFRD OFFICERS

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Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:
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San Rafael, CA 94915

REEFERS RAP

JANUARY 02	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - <i>New Year's Day Dive</i> Point Lobos</p> <p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> New Location: BOAT HOUSE</p>	<p>16 - <i>President's Day Dive</i></p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>12 - 14 <i>Abalone Opener at Russian Gulch</i></p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>18 - <i>Point Lobos Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>15 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>18 - <i>Beach Dive - North Coast</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p> <p>25 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>	<p>08 - <i>Monterey Clean Up Dive</i> drc@astound.net</p> <p>19 - <i>General Meeting & Swap Meet</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>28 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i> Fish ID - (831) 372-9235</p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Closer</i> Coordinator: Robert Miché (415) 661-5540</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>06 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i> www.fishcount.org</p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>27 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Saturday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>	<p>18 - 20 <i>Channel Island Trip</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>21 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Opener at Salt Point</i> Coordinator: Pam Radkey (510) 527-5282</p>	<p>14 - <i>Alcatraz swim/paddle</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p> <p>18 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 2 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> 2003 OFFICERS ELECTIONS BOATHOUSE</p> <p>24 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday, - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</i></p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Closer</i> Coordinator: Robert Miché (415) 661-5540</p> <p>TBD - <i>Salmon Swim</i> Coordinator: Frank King</p>	<p>18 - <i>Christmas Party</i> <i>at the BOATHOUSE !!!</i></p>

Reefer Rap ... need to know more ...



NORTH COAST BEACH DIVE - MAY 18th

Meet at: Main parking lot in Salt Point State Park

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Pierre p.hurter@worldnet.att.net or (415)-285-6293

Depending on dive conditions we'll either explore Gerstle Cove or Still Water Cove. Bring your favorite food/drink and we'll finish up the day with a leisurely picnic and tall tales. (small grill will be on hand)



SWAP MEET - JUNE 19th 2002

Garage full? Closet overflowing? Are you tripping over your dive gear when you navigate in the wee hours of the morning to clean up pet up-chuck?

Would you like to trade your Mike Nelson twin hose regulator for a genuine Soviet Navy Rebreather? Or would you just like to have a Mike Nelson twin hose regulator?

If you answered YES to any of the above and related questions make sure to show up at the June General Meeting featuring a SFRD Swap Meet





**III III III
III II**

THE GREAT ANNUAL FISH COUNT

The "Great Annual Fish Count" is an event coordinated by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) that trains volunteer divers to document fish diversity and population trends in marine sanctuaries and coastal areas. The year 2002 marks the 10th anniversary for the fish count (formerly the Great American Fish Count).

If you are interested in participating, there will be a Fish ID seminar on Friday, June 28, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, at the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, 165 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove. For more information and registration contact Jonanne Garden at 831.372.923 or e-mail at USGardens@aol.com. The kick off dive will take place on July 6. Details are to be arranged. For more information see www.fishcount.org.

President- from page 2

where Ray Will, Ursula Bernhart, Gerda and I! The following day, Ken Gwin, Gene Kramer, and Curt Degler joined us for the day. We did have a great time, the weather was mild, the visibility outstanding and the abalone had to be beaten back with ab irons to keep the kayaks from sinking.

On to other musings, the Monterey City Council, in a 5 to 0 vote adopted a policy of only welcoming cruise ships that would agree to a zero discharge policy. If all goes as planned, the cruise ship Star Princess will be coming to Monterey on May 7. At nearly 1,000 feet long, the brand-new cruise ship has 18 decks, 17 bars, four swimming pools, nine whirlpool spas, the world's largest floating casino and, more important, 2,600 passengers and 1,000 crew members, most of whom are expected to pour into town for a

day on buses, taxis and on foot and lighten their wallets. Two other cruise lines are scheduled to visit as well, Crystal Cruises' Crystal Harmony and Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas. Not everyone is keen on the notion of cruise ships docking in a marine sanctuary. In a typical one-week voyage, an average-size cruise ship produces eight tons of trash, 210,000 gallons of sewage, 25,000 gallons of oil-contaminated water and a million gallons of "gray water" from sinks, showers, galleys and laundry facilities, according to Kira Schmidt, a consultant to the San Francisco-based Bluewater Network. The economy may in the end be the real deciding factor in how many ships end up bobbing in the bay.

The next Monterey Clean Up Dive will be on Saturday, June 8. For those who haven't done this before, the purpose is to recover junk from the harbor and

surrounding Sanctuary. There will be free parking as well as air fills and a BBQ for participants in the event. Local dive shops will once again, be pitching in to provide prizes in various categories. Last year some of the more interesting finds were the bed of a pickup truck, (no kidding) cell phones and a beautiful old anchor. The total haul last year added up to a total of 5,600 pounds of thrash, which is no longer in the harbor. It's a fun event and a nice easy dive or two with a chance to explore the harbor. If you're interested, see page __ for details.

At our last meeting Loretta brought up the lack of beach dives lately, there are none on our schedule. She's right, we ought to be able to gather enough

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POINT LOBOS DIVE - APRIL 2002

by Frank Onstine



It was a beautiful, sunny day. At Monastery Beach the sight of azure waters and zephyr tousled waves gladdened the heart, just the day for a diving adventure!

These happy feelings were heightened by our good fortune in being able to ditch work in the middle of the week, we few, we lucky few had the beautiful California coast to ourselves while the rest of the world toiled. The boulders at Whaler's Cove blocked the breeze and made it rather balmy, much yoo-hoing and visiting with other divers while donning our gear and waiting for the arrival of the Cypress Sea.

Ahead of schedule the boat arrived and we swam out leisurely to board her; Armin, Pierre, Gerda, Jim Vallario, Ken, Susan and myself. Bluefish Cove looked rather rough so our captain opted for Stillwater Cove and Pescadero Pinnacle. Ken and Susan laid out guide lines along the bottom on both dives which, for me at least, made finding the anchor line much less of a puzzlement.

We were back at Whaler's Cove by 1:00 PM for a snack of smoked salmon and fromage de chevre (goat cheese) and then on to Chevys for lunch. Good company, a good crew and beautiful surroundings made for an excellent spring dive adventure.

President – from page 5

enthusiasm to coordinate at least one beach dive if not two, every month. I'm happy to report that Bhushan has stepped up to the plate for May, Robert Miche will be coordinating an abalone closer and Jason O'Rourke has something up his sleeve for July. That leaves five months on my calendar. So if you have ever wanted to see your name in print, organize a dive, it's painless, it's easy, it's fun and it's free.

One final note, I'd like to get some feed back concerning our current meeting place. What are you're thoughts, good, bad, or indifferent? You can contact the editor at p.hurter@worldnet.att.net or call me at (415) 285-6293. In the meantime, to paraphrase our club's constitution ... "The specific and primary purposes for which this club is organized are to promote the recreational and social aspects of the sport of skin and scuba diving by group participation therein..." So lets get together and dive.

DIVING IN SCOTLAND

by Peter White

Some time ago, I agreed to write something for the newsletter, and not only has my conscience started to bother me (Editor's note: *can you spell GERDA HURTER*), but I have a computer again, so here it is. What I want to write about is what I know most about in diving terms - diving in Scotland, both in the sense of what Scottish dive sites are like, and how the diving world is set up there.

The biggest difference between Scotland and California diving is how the diving is organised. In Scotland, most diving is club

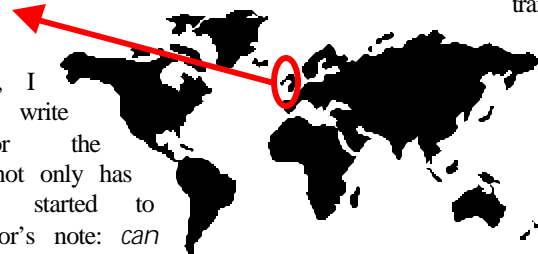
based. A new diver may do a training course through a school (usually attached to a store, just like here) - but some don't, and almost any diver who is serious about diving joins a club. British clubs are branches of national organisations (BSAC

[<http://www.bsac.org>] and ScotSAC

[<http://www.scotsac.com>] being the biggest in Scotland; and Lothian Divers, BSAC 1945 [<http://www.lothiandivers.com>]

being my old branch), and have a far greater scope than most American clubs because they run their own training.

New members can be trained from the ground up through the branch, which runs its own training with its own volunteer instructors, sometimes in coordination with other branches or regional organisations. This training is continuous, and with branches needing a stream of new instructors people gain plenty of advanced qualifications. Out of 60 members of my (unusually well trained) branch in Scotland when I left, 18 were qualified instructors (with a few more trainee



instructors). Equally important, at least three quarters had done oxygen administration and first aid courses, while all qualified divers in BSAC have to have done extensive rescue training.

All the emphasis on training has a number of effects. One is that training can take over your life, as you progress from trainee to another instructor and discover

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Scotland – from page 6

that the training officer has plans for every weekend of the rest of



your life (no, I don't know why BSAC clubs have "officers" - probably some ex-naval founder to blame for that). Now is the first time in three years when I won't be heavily involved in the training programme, either as a trainee or instructor, and I can feel my skills decaying already. Another effect is that clubs meet very frequently for pool training, and if you put divers together in a pub every Tuesday night, diving every weekend tends to follow. Finally, because people train together they tend to know who is capable of what and who make good and bad buddies.

That leads to another major difference in what diving people do. What here is regarded as technical diving is pretty much standard in Britain. Most diving is done from RIBs, using delayed SMBs, and dry suits with pony bottles or twin sets (doubles) are the norm. Part of this is because of the nature of the dive sites, but part also because the club mixes more and less experienced divers so that divers tend to work their way up to more advanced diving - and as better practice (such as nitrox or using pony bottles) appears, more people learn about it and take it up. Clubs also tend to provide a framework for buying large scale equipment that people cannot afford themselves. My branch owned a RIB, an oxygen kit, oxygen analyser, spare cylinders, and some training equipment - and had an annual turnover of around £2000 (something like \$30,000). That's

very standard for a BSAC branch of its size.

Another factor is that typically Scottish divers are much more safety conscious than American ones.

Mostly I think that is because of how

much rescue training British divers do, but it is probably partly because the branch structure means that certain responsible people are liable to answer to the sherriff (a Scottish position, like a judge in America) if there is a Fatal Accident Inquiry (loosely equivalent to an American inquest). As compensation, the club officers can prevent you diving with the club if you are doing anything seen as dangerous. In some ways it's a little too authoritarian for most American tastes - the buddy pairs, for example, are often decided by a trip organiser who has the job of pairing more and less experienced people in a safe combination without antagonising anybody.

As for the diving itself, most Scottish divers believe that the best diving in the world is in Scotland - and I haven't seen anything to make me disagree. For some reason it seems to be a bit off the beaten track of world diving though. I used to think that people outside Scotland didn't do cold water diving - but maybe cold water divers just don't travel. Flying with twin cylinders is not the most practical idea.

Why does Scotland have such good diving? Well, if you were to try to design the perfect dive area, you'd think about the following:

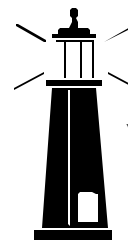
✗ Lots of islands and channels to give you shelter from the weather, so that you can dive even when it's blowing half a gale and

people with common sense are in the pub.

✗ Fast tidal drifts, to sweep the muck out of the water and give you decent visibility, and fill the sea with life (the more current, the more food for the filter feeders, so the more anemones, which means more of everything all the way up the food chain). There are places in Scotland with 12 knot currents (although you avoid diving those at flood tide for obvious reasons !).

✗ Rocky volcanic geology, with lots of jagged lumps of hard rock, giving you cliffs and pinnacles everywhere.

✗ Wrecks all over the place at every depth. This was achieved in Scotland by having fast currents, skerries



(rocks hidden below the surface), unpredictable weather, and major shipping lanes, and greatly helped by our German friends putting

mines and submarines in the shipping channels. Sadly, peace in Europe, weather forecasting, radar and electronic navigation has ruined it all. There are still plenty of wrecks left, but few new ones. Last year I was in the Sound of Mull the day after a cargo ship ran aground, and the local pubs were full of divers salivating at the thought of a new wreck.

✗ Sheltered easy shore dives for training. California has the Breakwater (probably the best cold water training site I've ever seen);

continue on page 8

Scotland – from page 7

Scotland has Loch Long.

✘ Consistent weather. So we missed out on that one - the weather in Scotland can blow up in your face with little or no warning.

There are very few places that have all of those so well as Scotland does.

Comparing the actual diving in Scotland and California, the two are very similar. The shore diving in Scotland is rather worse (there are fewer sites, and less life in them), but the boat diving is simply fantastic. Boat diving in Scotland tends to consist of spectacular scenic and wreck dives, with amazingly colourful life, but diving is a bit more technical than most California diving - the weather is downright capricious, and many of the best dive sites are deep, exposed, and swept by fast currents. The trouble with Northern California is partly that it is too exposed to bad weather, and partly that it needs a few more wrecks. If I were governor of California, I'd ban GPS and radar on large ships for ten years, and you'd have all the wrecks you want - but I'm not likely to get that job.

So I've rambled on for a few pages now, and like all Scots I see my own country through rose coloured spectacles, but hopefully I've convinced you that there is great diving in Scotland, even if it isn't famous over here. The thing that I miss most about Scottish diving though is the entire club system, where people train together and where the club system builds groups of divers that go on indefinitely, both spending time together socially, and diving together.

DIVING THE GREAT LAKES

by Armin Luggen

Hello again and welcome to a new adventure in diving. This time, I logged my dives in the US. To be more specific, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since I spent some time in Chicago at the "Our World Underwater" scuba show, Jim Roberts and myself decided it was about time to get some local diving under our weight belts. What better place to do such things then in Milwaukee.

When we arrived in Milwaukee we got our gear together that we either had shipped ahead or schlepped with us. The weather turned out to be in our favor, and the stormy winds and rain that passed through the last two days were gone. A perfect day do go diving.

Our dive boat, the "Reef Diver", a houseboat set up for divers, became our means of going out onto the lake and Jerry Guyer, our captain welcomed us on board. Gert Grohmann, Julie Vance, Jitka Hanakova, Rick Richter, Kevin Cokain, Jim Roberts, boats man Bruce and myself boarded at 4:30 in the afternoon for two dives off shore in Lake Michigan.

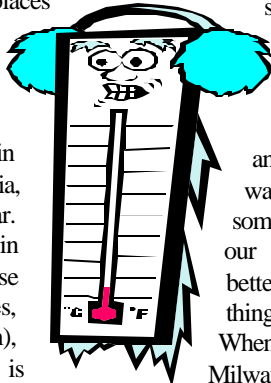
Our destination, the "Prins Wille V" a freightliner, build in 1940 in Rotterdam, Netherlands and the Dredge 906, a barge vessel.

The short travel distance to the first wreck left us plenty of time to get our gear and tanks ready, while enjoying the warm late afternoon sun. What a sight! Arriving at the dive spot, Gert and myself where the first ones to enter the water. The water was flat with a nice tint of blue, one giant stride ... and in we went. I gasped for air and started chocking when the water went

down the wrong pipe. "The water is not salty!" Cold water diving, yeah, sure it is. Adequate thermal protection is a must for this kind of diving and so we were all dressed in toasty warm dry suits. Down we went and it was great to be wet again. The wreck is positioned between 48 to 90 feet. While making last minute adjustments to the gear and light, we fly to the bottom of the see and start exploring the wreck.

The "Willie" as it is called in this area, has plenty of openings to pass through to explore the interior. Of course, wreck knowledge and some training in wreck penetration is certainly a must. Gert, my dive buddy for this dive is a TDI Instructor and avid Technical diver. I am sure that by now he owns part of the wreck with as many dives he has done.

Fascinated by the structural integrity of the wreck, I did not feel the cold penetrating my face where the mask and/or neoprene did not cover. Our dive lasted about 40 minutes while on 35% Nitrox and we slowly started our



"Prins Willem V" sank on Oct 14, 1954. She collided with the towed barge SINCLAIR XII, in tow of the tug SINCLAIR HOUSTON (or SINCLAIR CHICAGO), and sank with a 20x8 foot hole in her side. Her crew of 30 were rescued by the Coast Guard cutter HOLLYHOCK. The wreck is one of the most frequently visited on Lake Michigan. She was scuttled while building to prevent capture by Nazis, refloated and completed in 1948-9

continued on page 9

Great Lakes – from page 8

assent back to the boat. What an experience! Definitely a wreck to visit.

A short ride over a calm lake positioned us at our next site. This time, we were going to



explore an old barge the “Dredge 906”. This massive monster of steel, covered with ceeber mussels, lies at a 180-degree angle from that of its natural intent. As we approached the

shipwreck we explored some of the cables of this huge thing. The visibility at its best was 20 feet unveiled the immense picture of its original shuffle. Man heights tall and same in the width. It makes quite a statement and your mind starts imagining the labor involved to build such a piece.

We continued our tour by exploring the outside of the wreck which rests at about 70 feet. Because of the cold water the wreck is quite intact as far as I was able to tell and considering the environment had quite some life on it. Raiser sharp ceeber mussels, embrace the 906 and give many divers a reason to invest in new dive gloves after some visits.

Time was running out and we had to head back. It was dark by

now and we enjoyed a nice early night dive during our ascent. The perfect spot to get amazed about nature. While undressing and storing our dive gear away, the captain headed back to the harbor. Got milk? Well, we got Chocolate...

Once the cars were loaded with our gear and the boat locked up, we finished the day with a hardy Tacos-all-you-can –eat meal. This day has definitely left me with some impressive moments and pictures of a great surrounding of nature and good people. Thanks to all, for an unforgettable time in Milwaukee.

Pirate’s Cove Diving Inc, in Milwaukee your destination for gear and air fills as well as for educational purposes, with Len-Der Charters, will get you there.

...



**NEVER TRUST THE OLD
GUYS, OR JASON
O’ROURKE’S DANGLING
CARROT**

By Kenneth Gwin

It was a great Ab Opener, where the hell was everybody?

Launched kayaks that Saturday at some well known cove north of Mendocino—a spot well marked on very state map or road sign in the area, detailed in Bruce Watkin’s Guide to N. California, & otherwise not a secret spot. Still, where the hell was everybody.

Crossed a small stream terminating at a wide open sand and gravel beach framed by the thin arched buttresses of a graceful highway bridge spanning in a tall and graceful curve far above.



We watched Ray (the only other ab diver in our group) out past the middle of the cove. The blue water lay flat, relaxed, while curls of sea broke just beyond him on two large rocks marking the entrance to this broad and protected expanse.

Still alone, Gene and I suited up while Ray slowly paddled in.

"How’s the diving?"

"Oh, great. Found a good spot. 3 abs in 4 dives."

"Pretty easy, huh?"

"Oh yeah."

"How deep?"

"Oh, probably 15 feet or so.

I could see the bottom from the

kayak. Abs everywhere. All bigger than legal. Looked in among the rocks along the side of the cove and didn’t see much."

"Cool."

Paddling out into a grand morning of sunny-tourist-photo-reality-with-good-color-saturation, we checked out the area where we had seen Ray.

Occasional kelp marked the spot. Not the-Heart-of-Darkness-Amazon-vooodoo-floating-skulls-in-miso-soup stuff you get after midsummer. This was the thinned-out-after-a-blown-out-winter-almost-a-desert sort of stuff.

Remarkably pretty water. Gene tested the depth with an anchor. "Hmm, better than thirty feet here. Let’s move in a little."

continue on page 10

**Old guys ... dangling carrot –
from page 9**

Again.

"Hmm, oh, well."

Clearly could see the bottom and light patches against the dark. Dropped down and scouted out a half dozen abs before popping an easy one off that looked like a catcher's mitt in my hand. On the surface, I shouted over to Gene. "This is too easy," almost embarrassed that I took an ab on the first dive. "This can't be the spot we saw Ray. It's about 35' here."

"It sure looks like it to me." Pleasantly, we continued our dives.

I'd sometimes follow the dark outline of a full height bull kelp.

Sometimes just dropping down without a reference. Sometimes I could catch sight of Gene's long green fins slowly waving as he disappeared behind a rock.

Got our limits.

Played a little while looking for fish, poking around, whatever. Good abs every where. Took the kayaks out past the point looking at caves, arches. A nice breeze was blowing out of a sunny blue sky.

Back on the beach, two husbands in lawn chairs drinking beers. 3 kids, 3 dogs playing in the sand.

The two wives geared up with ab irons in hand, determination in their eyes, and smiles on their faces. What a country.

Where's our group of hardy divers?

But, I love that understated and cagey Ray.

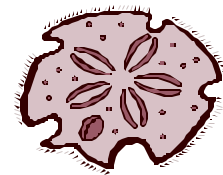
For him, 15 feet equals 32-44 feet.

Temp? Probably 54 on the surface.

No current. No surge.

Viz?--Must have been outstanding.

Jason? Where are you? We could see the bottom.



Note from the editor

It's almost a half a year now since I agreed to work the newsletter. Club members have been great with sending in their stories and pictures. At times at the very last minute, making me sweat and scrounge around for tidbits to fill 'er up. The Yahoo chat group always comes in handy enabling me to be an online Xanthippe nagging members into article submission. Let alone, to just reprint highlights of the month, right Bill (Levine)?? But besides that I am after all married to Pierre. You want to know what puts sharks, at least one at the Rowland Institute for Science, into a romantic mood? - 'big bad Barry White' – so watch out what you hum on your deco stops!

Ever heard of 'The Curse of the Bambino'? No, no, this is not the Italian version of Bambi being eaten by one of the 20 varieties of sharks that live in the Mediterranean Sea. Oh, did I hear Baseball? Red Sox? Babe Ruth? Getting warmer. The other night Pierre informed me that the team (Red Sox) was engaging divers to retrieve a piano Babe Ruth played in 1918. It got dumped into a pond before he was sold to the NY Yankees and as some of you know the Red Sox have never won a World Series since then – hence the Curse.

Need more adventure, mystery? Well, there is this breaking news from India where divers with the Scientific Exploration Society believe to have discovered a mythical city off shore, which according to local legends was lost to floods 2000 years ago.

And then there are those little arctic creature always dressed for a formal occasion. In contrast to whales and seals they cannot collapse their lungs and are like you and me susceptible to nitrogen on-gassing at depth. They actually slow their ascent by stopping to use their flippers half way up to avoid the bends... safe diving to all!





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.)

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|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
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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/>.

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