



**JELLYFISH RANT**  
by Ken Gwin

Actually, this shouldn't devolve into a full on rant, but I would like to pose a few questions anyway.

After the last few months of diving through jellies, seeing the various photos and videos highlighting these blobby gelatinous aggregations, I was finally motivated by Harry and Jim's recent comments on their independent experiences with our translucent visitors.

Harry was pointing out what he called a 'comb jelly' found on one of their dives. Rightly generalized as one of many 'lobate combs' the *leucothea pulchra* seems to be designated by the fuzzy golden inclusions speckling one of many diaphanous structural layers. (These are nearly identical in appearance to the fuzzy golden inclusions found on the *cyclosalpa affins*. However, since these are more independent, colonial animals, each structural module pop-beaded together thingy



looks like a French donut with sprinkles of golden jimmies.)

I was always told that the *beroidae* were the comb jellies. I bought into this because there was nothing else identifiable with these blind purse shaped things other than the 'combs' which nicely glittered with chase lights if the sun was up and bright, or you shined a good light on them. They are also firm and nearly cartilaginous to the touch, while most of the lobata are almost vapor and spin into a wad if you just brush some current past them. They do have the same nifty, sparkly chase lights that are fun to

watch.

As a scientist, I am a failure.

I tried to talk to Worbel about jellyfish identification, but he just laughed that condescending scientist's laugh.

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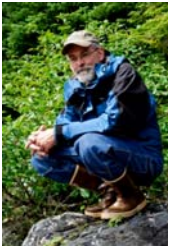
**OCTOBER'S ENTERTAINMENT  
BIKINI ATOLL**

I have been interested in this dive site for years. I've meet and talked with a number of divers who have visited this location. I have seen a number of videos showcasing the famous ships resting at this site and documentaries further detailing the events that created this destination.

Mike Clough, one of our local divers, has visited Bikini Atoll a number of times. He has agreed to present to the San Francisco Reef Divers images, descriptions, and stories of his experiences diving this hot spot. Mike is an avid wreck diver and has been on a campaign to encourage the creation of artificial reefs through the Ships to Reefs project, wreck diving, and the required, proper training.

Bikini Atoll is the largest peacetime, Government funded artificial reef project in American history.

Now that it is cool enough to dive, Mike can share what he has seen and promises to bring a full bag of BS as well as loose 5 pounds in preparation for this Bikini presentation so that he looks good in one.



*Der Stammtisch*

By Pierre Hurter

Moon jellies seem to be a theme lately on the local dive scene, see Ken's rant on the topic. While we're on the topic, diving that is, October is shaping up to be a good month for it. But lets back up a bit and talk about September. I find it's always a plus to start out with a dive report before I wander off into uncharted territory.

Aside from the extended range trip I wrote about last month, we had one of our regularly scheduled Cypress Sea dives in September. Those of you keeping track have probably noticed that aside from a few deviations caused by Norm's Tahoe Extravaganza and the Channel Islands trip, we head out on the second Saturday of every month. September was another one of the exceptions, caused by the impact of the diurnal ascension on the angle of the polar axis. Never mind all that, the importance thing is that a hardy band of Reefers headed out to sea.

Apparently it was the 50<sup>th</sup>, anniversary of the Monterey Jazz festival or some such non- diving event, but there was not a room to be found at the inn, so we headed south towards Monterey at "O-dark thirty", the morning of the dive.

I have to say, this has never been my favorite time of day. I like to think of myself as an early bird, but there is a fine line between early and "O-dark thirty", it is not easily defined, but I know the difference, and I can increasingly feel it in my bones. "O-dark thirty" is the time you are awakened to do KP (kitchen patrol for you young folks) or to watch members of your local multicultural youth organization steal your neighbors car. It's early and there is no glorious sunrise to make the moment memorable.

Anyway, we arrived on time, boarded the trusty Cypress Sea and headed out from the Pier into the oncoming rain. The seas where flat, with nary a ripple to be seen, the hardy crew battened the hatches and off we went. With 14 divers aboard there was plenty of room to be had for all, this despite the

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## REEFER'S RAP 2007

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
01 - New Year's Day - Point Lobos 03 - Officers Meeting 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>17 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
01 - CEN CAL - Abalone Opener 04 - Officers Meeting 14 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) * <b>18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	02 - Officers Meeting 12 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>16 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	06 - Officers Meeting 09 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>20 - Meeting - Seafood Peddler</b> 100 Yacht Club Dr San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 460-6669 TBD - Abalone Closer
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
04 - Officers Meeting 14 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	01 - Officers Meeting 12 - 14 - Channel Islands 17-19 - Abalone Opener Pam Radkey 510 207-6348 <b>15 - Meeting - Sinbad's</b>	05 - Officers Meeting 07 - 09 - Lake Tahoe Dive 15 - Alcatraz swim/paddle - Tim - <a href="mailto:invitational@south-end.org">invitational@south-end.org</a> <b>19 - Meeting: Int'l Talk Like A Pirate Day at Sinbad's</b> 22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
03 - Officers Meeting 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</b>	07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>21 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!!</b> TBD - Abalone Closer	05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) <b>19 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party ???</b>

### Jellyfish continued from page 1

I patiently tried to describe to him the jelly that I had seen in Mexico while free-diving, how I had at first thought it was a bundle of fish guts the crew had wrapped in a tidy cheesecloth ball and that it most certainly had fallen overboard by mistake. But no, this was some strange jellyfish floating in front of my eyes. (What? Oh, yeah, all jellyfish are strange. And they're not even fish.)

His response was something to the effect that sighting of this bundle of guts jelly were indeed rare.

My other suggestions about jellyfish identification books for the masses have gone unheeded.

Jellies, such as the *mitrocomidae*, *dipleurosomatidae*, *eirenidae*, and all the rest, are described with such assured differentiation. They all look the same to me.

I am happy that some have contented themselves with the simple things in life, finding comfort in the mindless wanderings of the 'moon jellie' that are simple enough for the common pedestrian to identify. Bravely, some even venture out to suggest they saw a 'brown / sea nettle' pulsing by and not an egg yoke.

The jellies have indeed been spectacular this year. I enjoyed the 'moons' this past weekend. I also wondered in vain about the name and nature of those tiny, endless filaments in the water no head nor tail, just one long translucent string extending from one extreme of vision to the other, as far as the eye could see. Hmm ...

I have found some comfort, however. Recently, I have been more fascinated by the sponges, especially the deep water ones we encounter on our dives. Even common names or pictures of these are not to be found in the books available to us ordinary *schlubs*. I have some idea as to why this might be the case. It turns out that these are as problematic to identify as the jellies, even for the smart assed scientists. They identify them to us by shape, not a generic, common name. So, now I can be assured that my naming of a sponge as the Toilet Bowl Sponge is just as valid as any. The scientists, however, are busy with their latest toys, running DNA sequences on samples so they can 'scientifically' identify them, and I'm sure they'll keep these names to themselves.

I have still been hoping for more picture books on jellyfish for us untrained, diving masses--again, still unheeded.

**(Warning:** The above article coincidentally has a word count of 666 (\*). Although unintended, this may be the final sign for the end of days. Oops.)

**(\*) Editor's Note** – since this is a family publication, a random word or letter was inserted to offset 666.



### Stammtisch from page 2

proliferation of doubles. Gerda, myself, Doug and Colonel Mike, all with twin tanks, long hoses, back plates and the other assorted symbols of the fraternal order ready to go.

There was a new able bodied seaman aboard, apparently recently Shanghaied from some seedy waterfront watering hole. His name was Mack, a tightly muscled, grizzly veteran of the sea, more particularly a Jack Russell Terrier, sporting a life vest, complete with a carrying handle on top. Aside from Mack we had Captain Phil at the helm along with Josh, Mike and a greenhorn whose name I can't remember (will probably pop back into the memory circuits as soon as I have another ration of navy rum).

Our first dive was at *Que Passo*, a beautiful pinnacle shaped, according to Phil, like a Converse All Star High Top. The pinnacle starts at around 45 feet and dropped off to 130 feet. It was dark, cold, with visibility in the 20 foot range; perfect Monterey diving conditions.

Dive two was at "Mashed Potato" a beautiful arch leading into a "cavern" with a hole in the top and two towards the rear. The main entrance starts at around 80 feet with the rear exits at 30 feet, a beautiful spot, but again very dark, a great place to have a Binford 5000 (the kelp cutter) canister light. Our first dive at this spot, we almost swam past the subtle darkening of the wall which marked the opening.

The last spot "Sunday" came complete with a musical

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accompaniment from Captain Phil, as he sang "Sunday, Sunday". I seem to remember the Mamas and the Papas singing "Monday, Monday", but no matter. Gerda and I sat this dive out, policing our gear, taking a nap and getting the first shot at the Oreos.

The ride home was as flat as the ride out, with the added bonus of the sun coming out; another perfect day on the bay.

To start October out on a high note, we once again played hooky and started the month off at the gates of Point Lobos early on Monday morning. Now this is what I call a pleasant early, to be at Lobos by 8:30, we both got up at our regular, go to work time, wandered down to Martha & Brothers our local coffee hangout. Any place that opens at 5:30 and serves a great cuppa Joe is my kind of place.

So loaded with caffeine we sat at the gate, hoping that it would open before we were forced to water the bushes. As luck would have it, the gates opened and off we went, dive team Number One. This was our second decompression dive. Once again we hooked up with Captain Phil, our classmate Doug and headed off in Phil's boat towards the Great Pinnacle.

Our plan called for a dive to 130 feet for 25 minutes and then ascend to 70 feet, do a gas switch to 50% EAN (Enriched Air Nitrox) or 50% Oxygen if you prefer for 5 minutes. Enough time to deploy a surface marker buoy (SMB) and then continue to mosey on towards the surface in 10 foot increments with a 2 minute stop at each increment. At 20 feet we made our final hang

for 11 minutes and then with a final OK sign, headed topside and back on the boat. To make life more interesting we had added a little helium (20%) to the mix. Contrary to my expectations, it did not make the tanks any lighter. Total dive time just a tad under one hour, 56 minutes by my gauge.

So what's the appeal of "technical diving"? What is it anyway? As is usually the case when you get divers together, there is no clear or singular definition. In general, I think there are a couple of defining features. First, you go deeper than is the norm in recreational diving. Secondly, because of the combination of depth and time, there is often an inability to descend directly to the surface, either because of a decompression liability or a physical ceiling such as in cave diving.

To me the appeal is in gaining a deeper understanding of diving physiology, going from the state of mind of the "Leisure diver" to the "Regular diver" and now one step further. Call it what you will it opens up another dimension and allows us to stay there and explore a bit longer than before.

Besides who wouldn't want to revisit and finally get to use some of the high school physics you sat through, if only Dalton's Law had been presented to me in terms of the partial pressure of oxygen and it's role in oxygen toxicity at depth, I might have paid more attention.

Aside from diving we hiked up to the parking area at Coit Tower to watch the Blue Angeles on Sunday. Now depending on where you live, you have possibly heard that there are those amongst us, here in the City, who decry the waste of fuel, the militarism,

the macho display of brute power, yadda, yadda, yadda... Those folks were not in attendance at Coit Tower. Like last year the place was overrun by folks of every hue and inclination, the place looked like a San Francisco version of the United Nations, punked, pierced, multilingual and multihued as befits this city, but it sure looked to me like this crowd was enjoying themselves and when the Blue Angeles came streaking over Coit Tower, they went nuts.

For those interested in something a little different, there was the Italian Heritage Day celebration complete with a parade, the 139<sup>th</sup> to be held in San Francisco. We missed this year's Grand Marshal, Frankie Valli, it was one of those weekends where there was just too much going on to catch it all.

I read somewhere that upwards of 400,000 people were on hand to celebrate, as we walked down from Coit Tower on Grant Street, it certainly seemed possible.

On our way home we paused at the San Francisco Brewing Company on Columbus. For those of you who are history buffs, this bar, started life as the Andromeda in 1907 and survived Prohibition by serving clams and oysters and calling itself a café. Apparently they still served alcohol, but only for medicinal purposes. In 1913 Jack Dempsey worked here, before going on to becoming the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Rumor has it that in 1939, public enemy number one, Baby Face Nelson, was captured here by the FBI. In any event they serve up a goodly number of brews, perfect to wet your whistle for the long walk home.

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**Stammtisch from page 5**

We had wisely chosen to walk up to Coit Tower and leave our car parked far away. On the way down from our place we wandered through the Castro and the Street Fair, only the 34<sup>th</sup> year for them, but you have to start sometime. The fair fills up the

Castro and is now spilling into Market Street. All sorts of "Arts, crafts" and BBQ delights, lots of huge sausages, no really! It was one of those weekends when everyone could find something to do, The Italian Heritage Day Parade, Fleet Week, the Castro Street Fair or the San Francisco Brewery; unless of course the

Blue Angeles overhead disturbed your napping.

Will be on the Cypress Sea this weekend for another adventure; hope to see some of you there. Until next month, dive often, deep and safely.

**VOLUNTEER DIVERS NEEDED AT THE SCIENCE ACADEMY IN GOLDEN GATE PARK.**

This is a notice for opportunities for divers interested in volunteering to work at the new aquarium opening soon at the Science Academy in Golden Gate Park.

A good many divers will be needed to clean tanks and meet and greet the public.

**Requirements:**

- Open water certification, Rescue Diver, 40 dives minimum
- Current chest x-ray, and a physical exam within the last 2 years
- 18 years or older
- CPR & First Aid maybe required – training might be provided

**Must be able to swim**

- Have basic knowledge of marine animals
- Observation and communication skills
- Be able to present to the public

Contact Rosalind Henning  
415 321 8111  
[rhenning@calacademy.org](mailto:rhenning@calacademy.org)

# Flotsam & Jetsam

**Yahoo! And Shark Finning**

Here's something to keep in mind the next time you are noodling around the web. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was recently alerted to Yahoo! Inc.'s indirect investment in the shark fin industry. Yahoo! is a 40% owner of Alibaba, a Chinese company that trades in shark fins and contributes to the slaughter of sharks worldwide.

Sea Shepherd has received numerous inquiries in recent weeks about the removal of its listings from GoodSearch and Freelanthropy Search, search engines that contribute a portion of the proceeds from each search to the nonprofit organization of the user's choice. These search engines are powered by Yahoo!, and despite its support of their mission in theory, Sea Shepherd decided that they could not in good conscience benefit from a

company such as Yahoo! that invests profits from the shark fin industry.

In September 2007, Sea Shepherd Founder and President, Captain Paul Watson, wrote a letter to the President of Yahoo! asking, "Is this the legacy that you want Yahoo to leave-the destruction of the world's sharks for shark fin soup in China?" He did not receive a reply.



We highly encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- |                          |   |      |
|--------------------------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD)                    | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN)                | 10   |

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Please make checks payable to “San Francisco Reef Divers” and mail to: Pierre Hurter, SFRD Treasurer, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



**ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS (SFRD):**

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to “SFRD”. The General Meeting is held 3rd Wednesday of the month at Sinbad’s, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

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