



Connecting and Informing our Neptune Community in:
Safety, Camaraderie, and Club Legacy
April 2015

WSB Finally starting to Heat Up & Auction will be On Fire!

With reports of WSB scores beginning to flow it would appear that the action is now heating up for those who know where to look.

And with the piles and piles of great merchandise generously provided by our awesome sponsors the auction is guaranteed to be on fire! Be sure to arrive early (6pm) to secure you standing room for this great event.



**Congratulations to Larry Heinrich
on the board with his 63.8 lb'er**

2015 Neptunes Board

President

Byron Quinonez
(949) 244-7691
1byronq@gmail.com

Vice President

Keith Kaufmen
(310)629-7605
Kauff270@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bruce Dardis
(310) 625-1029
Bruce.Dardis@verizon.net
lbneptunespayment@gmail.com

Tentative Manager

Chris Yates

Newsletter Editor

Todd Farquhar
(805) 587-6637
tfarquhar@me.com

Club Historian

Masahiro Mori
(310) 628-8082
morifish@hotmail.com

Conservation Liaison

Terry Maas
(805) 642-7856
tmaas@west.net

Recording Secretary/Web Master

Brandon Ward
(714) 321-1707
webmaster@longbeachneptunes.com

Neptune To Do's:

- ❑ Turn in your Lobster Report Card by April 30 to avoid the \$20 non-return fee when you purchase next season's card.
- ❑ Late dues are now \$75. Anyone with unpaid dues cannot submit fish for awards.
- ❑ Time to start planning for The Blue Water Meet

2015 Neptunes Calendar:

- April 1st – Club Auction
- May 6th – Manufacturers' Night – Deliver Club Jackets
- June 3rd – BWM applications due
- June 13 – BWM
- July 1st – BWM Awards
- August 5th– TBD
- Sept.2nd – TBD
- Oct. 7th – Fall Classic applications due
- Oct. 24th - Fall Classic
- Nov. 4th – Fall Classic Awards
- Dec. 2nd – Announce new board

Be sure to see what is new at our web site at:

LongBeachNeptunes.com

Thanks to Brandon Ward (Wardo) for the updates!!!





Photo by Terry Maas

2015 Fish Standings (updates since last newsletter in [Blue](#))

California

- Barracuda: Open
- Bonito: Open
- Calico Bass: Open
- Calico Derby: Keith Kaufmen: 6.9 lbs
- Dorado: Open
- Halibut: Open
- Kent McIntyre: Open
- Lobster: Hobie Ladd: 8.8 lbs
- Sheepshead: John Hughes: 22.8 lbs
- Tuna: Open
- White Sea Bass: [Larry Heinrich: 63.8 lbs](#)
- Yellowtail: Open

Out of Country

- Reef Fish: Open
- Pelagic (non tuna):
Michael DeGiosa, Amberjack: 53.0 lbs



Photo by Terry Maas

April 2015 President's Message

Auction time, auction time! Here it is, fellow Neptunes! One of our largest events of the year, our annual club auction! Man, this is going to be a fun one, thanks to our generous sponsors! This is a one night event that funds our club for the Blue Water Meet, Fall Classic, and helps us support our causes, including keeping our fisheries open.

We have some awesome gear and trips donated, so bring your cash! Invite all of your friends, as well. Auction starts at 7pm, but get there by 6 to view items and ensure a seat.

Several key donations this year include:

Of course, from Captain George and the Sand Dollar: Keys to the Boat for 2015!!! That's right, you get out on every trip this year! Thanks, George and Lindsay!

A beautiful, seabass-slaying 55" Wong Hybrid Gun! Thanks to our good friend Daryl!

Gear from Riffe, JBL, and Spear America!

From our life member and good friend Terry Maas: A Freediver's Recovery Vest (FRV)! Thanks, Terry!

An EMT course, valued at \$1,000

1/2 day Charter for 6 on the Aries, thanks to Captain Leo Duarte!

Sea Sniper Baja trip! Woohoo for Wahoo!

Be the first one to catch our 2015 Blue Water Meet t's and Hoodies! Thanks to Wardo and our good friend Dam for the wonderful artwork!!!

And so much more. Thanks to the board for working hard, trying to make this the best auction ever. But we need your support- please spread the word, invite your friends, and bring the pocket book.

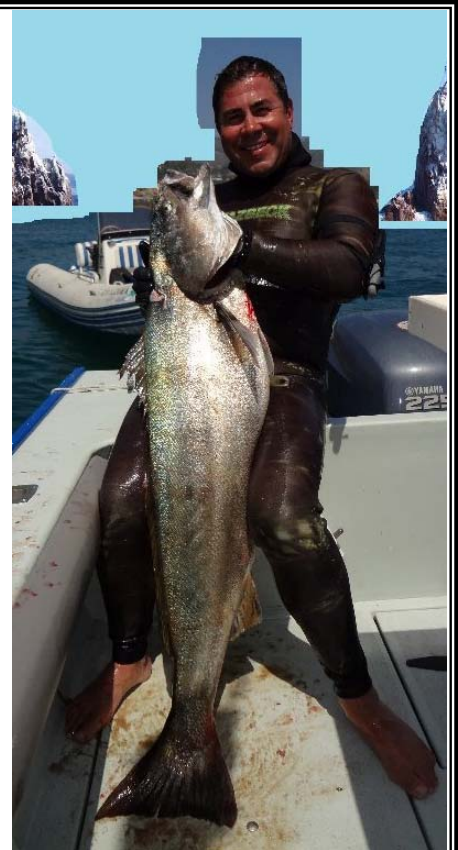
Of course, please extend a special thank you to our member Robert Strobach, who always does an excellent job as our auctioneer! Thanks again, Robert!

So please remember to support our sponsors this year, and look for an updated list in the May Newsletter and on our website.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Byron Quinonez

President, Long Beach Neptunes



Blue Water Meet Tees and Sweatshirts

Okay guys, here it is! Check out the epic artwork from Wardo, and our good friend Dam Nguyen! This year's t's are going to go fast!

Short Sleeve T's: \$10.00

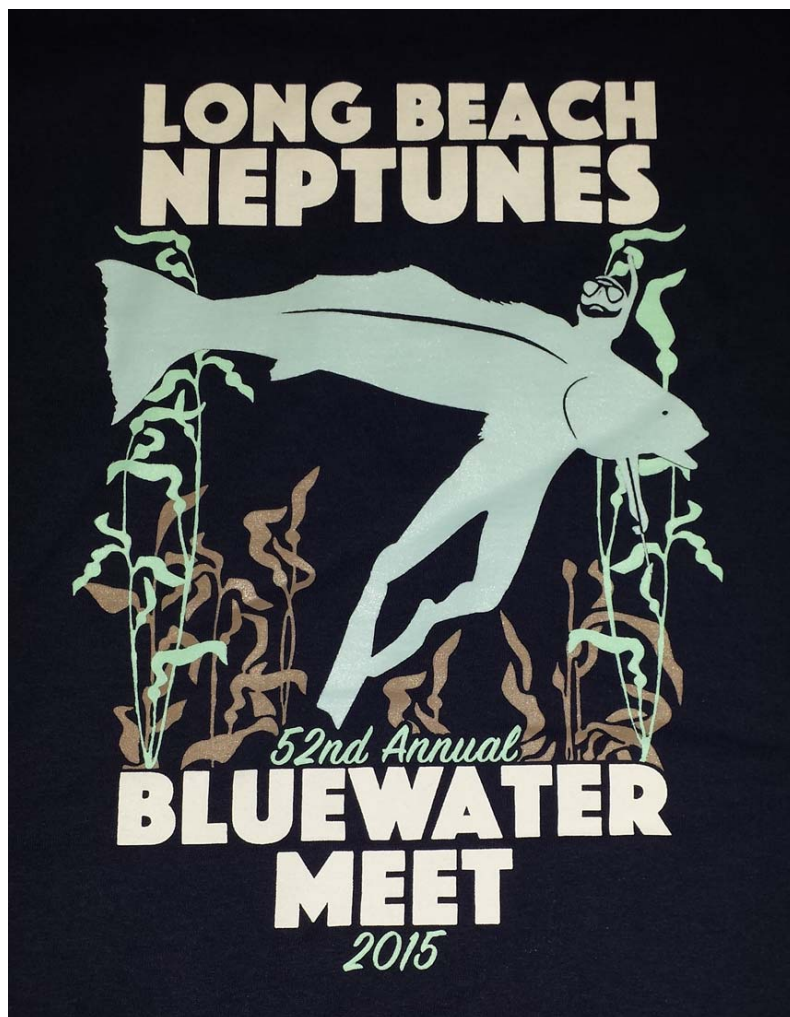
Long Sleeve: \$15.00

Hoodies \$30.00 (Pullover or Zippered)

Come get it at the auction, or order from Bruce or via PayPal!!!



Front



Back

It is Finally Here, our Annual Fundraising Auction April 1st

(7pm at Me-N-Eds but get there early!)

Too much good stuff to list. Please see the posts on [SpearingForum](#) or [Spearboard](#) for details on some (not even all) of the goodies!

Be sure to arrive early as you know it will fill up and early.

We will be accepting PayPal, Checks, and of course good ol' Greenbacks.



Thanks to Phil Polanco for this piece from over a decade ago when he was editing the Trident:

the Trailblazers

This section is dedicated to the pioneers of our sport. The brave who paved the way for the diving community. The *parents* who led us by hand to expose another world. A place that does not exist to those who do not leave the surface.

Gracing the cover of one of the greatest books about spearfishing, "*The last of the blue water hunters*," is a freediver, surrounded in deep blue, making his way to the surface with a *new* world record Dorado. **Jay Riffe** has come along way doing what he loves to do.

The year was 1946 at Camp Fox, Long Point, Catalina Island and Jay was eight years old when he joined his older brother John for the first time to explore below the waves.

"*All I had was a mask, no wetsuit, no snorkel. My brother asked me along so I could be his 'caddy' while he went and picked up lobster and Abalone*". He remembers diving Point Vicente, Abalone Cove, Flat Rock and up to Big Rock and beyond, all his splashing grounds in the day.

He mentioned seeing a National Geographic Magazine that had an article about the San Diego Bottom Scratchers and spearfishing. "*That really got me excited about diving*", he said.

At the age of 12, he found himself working for the Romano family. Neighbors of the Riffes at the time, owned Sea Net Manufacturing, the first dive mfg. company in the nation. Jay and John both worked for them and earned a healthy fifty cents an hour. Jay saved up and this is where he bought his first Arbolette and hand spear.

A few years later, he belonged to the "Sea Downers" along with his brother, out of Rene's Dive shop. It was here that he had the chance to meet Jacques Cousteau and watch his black and white 16mm film introducing the Aqua-lung. "*It was all about spearfishing*", Jay remembers.

John found a job with "Canadian Liquid Air", the first manufacturer of the Aqua-lung overseas. John went on to be one of the first divers with the Aqua-lung and with his diving experience, found himself on the UDT team V as a Frogman in the U.S.Navy.

The first Junior Spearfishing Championships were held in 1953 in Laguna Beach, Ca. Jay was 15 yrs old. By then, they were known as the "Sea Cubs" and their team placed Third.

Jay was introduced to San Diego diving, again through his brother, as John was now a Lifeguard at Ocean Beach. "*We dove the whole summer*", said Jay. "*Ocean Beach was so beautiful back then and La Jolla too. Halibut, man, big Halibut everywhere, huge bugs and Abalone like you wouldn't believe!*" His eyes gleamed. As I too, wished I could have seen, dove and enjoyed the waters of yesterday.

1957, the cubs were now bears, the team was now the "Sea Bears". Jay is now 17 years old and getting into competition big time. Within the next few years he would become the Pacific coast Champion, his team placed third in the Nationals and Jay dove into a spot on the World Spearfishing Team in Brazil.

Jay was noted for his deep diving, even with old, short fins he would regularly make 70-80' dives. Jay is lucky to be diving today. As he survived an episode of Shallow Water Blackout during a competition, many are not so lucky to tell about it. "*I was just diving hard and was pushing it*".

Blue Water Hunting was next for the divers to explore.

It was a time for seeking Yellowtail, White Seabass, Barracuda and others.

Paul Hoss was a local fireman and was making spearguns. "*Fine guns, very similar to what Wally was making in San Diego*" Jay said. "*I bought one for \$40.00.*" He laughed.

These guns were complete with a line pack, and a CO₂ popper.

An Australian diver by the name of, George Meyers called Jay one day, by the suggestion from a mutual friend. "*He was coming to the States and called me, so I picked him up from the airport and opened up my home for him to stay. I remember when I saw his gun, it was a strange looking thing. It also had a single band and a double flopper.*"



But, this guy could shoot and he was very consistent. We took him to Catalina and he pops two big White Seabass. I was wondering if it was him or that strange looking gun"

Jay began to make a similar styled gun in his garage. George gave him info on where to get parts for his new gun and Jay began ordering parts from Australia. He combined ideas from various styles along with his own and fined tuned his own hand crafted teak speargun. He sold guns and parts to many divers, including Charlie Sturgill. He began with his Standard #3, then began changing the length of the guns for a variety.

The dealer in Australia stopped sales to Jay and he found another from New Zealand. "*But, that stuff was weak. It would never hold up to the power of our blue water guns, so I changed that*"

He was introduced to Locky Brown through their fathers, who were friends. They dove together for years. When Jay was thinking about making reels, he and Locky got their ideas together and created a reel. Similar to what is out there today, the concept is pretty much the same. Although, this reel had a locking device that can be set with the pull of a finger. It allowed the diver to "lock" the spool and stop the fish, if he could, from wrapping up or getting in the holes and free spool just as easy. The reel was used by the US team in the Nationals when he made it. (I mentioned to him that I bought that same reel, used, from another diver, attached to my speargun and loved until the day I lost it. Gun and all, another donation to the sea. I really felt bad when he told me that the reel was forty years old, built in 1962.)

Sanding away in his garage he was on to something. Riffe International was started in 1983. Through trial and error, like anyone else, he has mastered it to a science.

Jay has held three World Records, all taken with his own handcrafted spearguns. A 44.5 lb Dorado, 62.4 lb Wahoo and 285 lb Yellowfin Tuna.

The company began to grow beyond the walls of his garage and was forced to expand with the demand of incoming orders. He moved to his present location and has been there for years. Later this year, RIFFE will be moving around the corner to a beautiful and spacious new building, which is currently under construction.

Congratulations to Jay as the Long Beach Neptunes newest "Life Member", this has come through years of dedication and support to the club.

Thanks to the Riffes for time in your busy schedule, Editor.

2014 Awards Banquet

Pizza, Suds and Neptunes Buds, What could be better but putting it all together to celebrate the 2014 big fish accomplishments? Congrats to all of the winners!



Tentatives Jess, Chase and Dave
Serving it up in Orange Shirt Glory

MC Byron kicking off the
celebration



John Hughes: Calico Derby 6.65 lbs

Awards Banquet 2014



Woody takes the Big Lobster with a 9.75 lb'er



Scotty with his biggest of two toad Halibut at 31.1 lbs

Awards Banquet 2014



Todd Farquhar's 23 lb, 9 oz Goat



John Hughes' Hog 45.75 lb Yellowtail

Awards Banquet 2014



Paul Hugoboom with the largest WSB at 72.65 lbs and takes home the Big Fish Perpetual Trophy

Awards Banquet 2014



Steve Parkford's Yellowtail at 61.25 lbs takes the out of country pelagic category



Mori's 50.2 lb Pargo takes the out of country Reef Fish

Awards Banquet 2014



Mark Hultgren's 8.8 lb Calico



John Johnston's 20+ CA Tuna that rounded out his King Neptune lineup

Awards Banquet 2014



Congrats to King Neptune No. 38, Ivan Sanchez



Hail to the Kings!!!



And to King Neptune No. 39,
John Johnston

Awards Banquet 2014



John Carpenter is honored as Mr. Neptune for his contributions toward Safety Awareness



And Byron is acknowledged for his service as President in 2014

Second Annual Neptune Family & Friends Catalina Campout

This summer, July 23-26 (Thursday-Sunday), we have two campsites at Little Harbor on the backside of Catalina, reserved that can hold approximately 40 campers. The campsites are site #2 and site #6. The camping trip is for Neptune members, their families and friends. If you are not a Neptune, you must be a guest of a Neptune (family or friend). If your schedule does not permit you to stay for the full four days, you are welcome to come for however many days that you can stay.

Little Harbor is a beautiful campsite and you can find more information about the site by visiting <http://www.visitcatalinaisland.com/camping-and-boating/two-harbors-camping/little-harbor> on the web.

Transportation to the campsite will be up to the individual camper. If you do not have a boat and cannot get a ride, the Catalina Express makes daily runs to two harbors from San Pedro. From Two Harbors, you can take a van to the little harbor campground.

If you are planning to attend, please contact me at long.beach.neptune@gmail.com, so that you can be kept informed of any information or planning that you should be aware of. In addition, you will need to take care of your own reservation by following the instructions in the next paragraph.

The cost is \$22/night for adults 12 and older and \$12/night for children under 12. You can reserve a spot by email, telephone or in person. To reserve a spot by email, include the reservation #11001203, the number of people in your group, the specific dates that you will be staying and a callback number. (The reservation is under my name) Visitor services will then call you back or email with the amount and take your credit card number. Their email is visitorservices@scico.com. To pay by phone, call (310) 510-4226 with the reservation number and the number of people to add and number of nights. Especially as we get closer to summer, it may be difficult to get through and email may be the best option. Last minute adds (if there is space), can be made with the onsite ranger on arrival (cash only), or at visitor services at Two Harbors. If you have questions or suggestions, let me know at long.beach.neptune@gmail.com

Lou Rosales



Fish and Wildlife Information and Updates

Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Dates to Keep Track of

- ♦ March 15: WSB limit changed from 3 fish to 1 fish (through June 15)
- ♦ March 18: Lobster season Over
- ♦ April 1: Red Abalone Season opens (through June 30)
- ♦ April 30: Last day to report Lobster Report Card harvest data without \$20 penalty
- ♦ June 16: WSB limit changes from 1 fish to 3 fish

morifish



ATOMIC
AQUATICS



ELECTRIC



SUNGLASSES

2nd Annual White Seabass Spearfishing Classic in Honor of Kirk McNulty

Tournament Dates: March 1- May 30, 2015

Cant believe its already that time again! The first year was an absolute success and we are kicking of the 2nd annual tournament to honor the legacy of Kirk McNulty, a Surfer, Diver, Brother and Son. Kirk was a world class waterman who was inspired by everything ocean. Although some of you may not have known Kirk we hope that you will participate as we are a small family of spear fishermen here on the West Coast and there will be some epic prizes up for grabs!

A \$10 entry is required prior to spearing a fish. Register at the bottom of the page. The proceeds will be donated to the White Seabass Hatchery Program led by Hubbs-Seaworld to help improve the WSB population on our coast. Please join us in the 2nd Annual tournament to celebrate Kirk's life and passion for the sea. Winners will be chosen by Top 3 **Biggest Fish!** Awards Party held in June at Body Glove Headquarters in Redondo Beach.

Click the links to view 2014 [winners](#) and [video](#), 2015 Leaderboard and be sure to join our [Facebook Page](#) to keep up with current fish counts and tournament stats.

Prizes:

- **1st Place** - Coronado Islands Dive w/ Guardian Charters, JBL Reaper 100cm Speargun, Electric California Prize Pack, Pelican Products Gear, Subscription to Spearing Magazine...(More prizes coming soon)
- **2nd Place** -Body Glove Freedive Wetsuit, Electric California Prize Pack, Celestron Binocular, Pelican Products Gear, Subscription to Spearing Magazine...(More prizes coming soon)
- **3rd Place** - Electric California Prize Pack, Pelican Products Gear, Subscription to Spearing Magazine...(More prizes coming soon)

Rules:

- You must be registered in the tournament prior to spearing your fish. No exceptions
 - All WSB must be taken between March 1st and May 31 2015
 - Need Photo of Catch and Digital Scale readout (photo of fish/weight must be taken on land, not from boat)
 - Proof of Catch date must be supplied. Newspaper article or Date Stamp on photo
- Submit all Photos to Support@hookbuzz.com. Qualifying fish will be added to the [leaderboard here](#). Dive Safe!



New Zealand, land of giants, Hobits and frogs By Terry Maas

This is my second year diving with a dedicated group organized by *Diving for a Cause* (DFAC) where we combine world class diving with the spirit of giving back. We chose the indigenous Maori as our partners in giving. We were invited into their tribe ceremonies, participated in games with them and shared stories over meals. We brought sports balls for the kids, stocked



a battered-women shelter with comfort toys for their children and donated most of our catch—freshly smoked yellowtail kingfish (kingy) and marlin to the local Mori (their sacred ceremonial compound) for use in ceremonies. Part of the two week trip allowed us to travel to local attractions such as the glow worm cave and Hobit Land.

Imagine Catalina's Farnsworth Bank on steroids, that's what it is like diving on some special reefs in New Zealand's famed, and aptly named Bay of Plenty. Last year (2013), I was fortunate to land a giant 250 pound striped marlin. Our Australian guide Ray Powell, creator of DiveR fins, found me diving near a steep drop-off. I had just discovered that my deep-throat croaking was doing a great job attracting a school of 3 small kingfish (small by NZ standards



is 30 pounds). Ray called, "Follow me and I'll show you where Colleen Gallagher (the founder of DFAC) just landed a nice kingy." We traveled a short distance up the side of the deep drop-off to his sweet spot—a steep drop close to a high

point on the offshore reef. He patiently watched me as I passed on a circling school of nice kingfish 30 to 50 pounds. I was looking for a "frog", which is the appearance of a very large kingfish heading straight toward you.

Ray left me to tend to others. Slipping down to 40 feet, I leveled off into a mixed school of reef fish. My croaking brought them closer and more appeared. I had that special feeling that soon a large kingfish would appear from the edge of the visibility a hazy 40 feet away. I was scanning the distance when the school of fish became nervous and swam toward the reef leaving me alone hanging off the deep end. Suddenly, the roar of a freight train passing next to me filled my senses as thousands of jack mackerel headed straight for me from the depths. The illusion of so many fish swimming at me and darting by left me disoriented and slightly dizzy—all in the space of seconds, when once again, I was left alone

hanging over the abyss. I extended my Daryl Wong gun, designed for 60-pound white sea-bass, toward the open water from where the bait had come hoping to line up on the predator that had frightened them so badly. Nothing appeared. I glanced over my shoulder and glimpsed the bright neon bars of a marlin swimming between me and the reef. Dragging my gun over my shoulder, I fired for center mass. Instantly, I saw my shaft fully penetrate a large striped marlin, which promptly bent it at 45 degrees and disappeared ripping my gun clip free. My gun, torn free, drifted by me sinking slowly while my float line departed. After I grabbed my gun, I surfaced after the 1:30 dive to see my floats disappearing. Already a 100 feet away, I threw the gun bands over my left shoulder and began swimming for all I had. An hour later, I made the kill shot on the fish that dragged probably me more than a mile.

This year, we dove another pinnacle off the famed White Island, which is an active volcano spewing sulfurous white clouds. The reef can be hot or cold, depending on the current. We had visited it several times before, but it was always dead with the bait hanging low in poor visibility. On our last day to the pinnacle, the bait was up, the water was clear, and the current was mild. We all agreed to allow Colleen in first when she promptly lined up on a 60-pound yellow and nailed it at 45 feet. She pulled her line fiercely because we learned the first thing these NZ yellowtail do is to dive for the bottom and wrap up in the 4-foot kelp fronds



covering the bottom. Next, two other team members tapped into a huge school of 100 yellows all in the 40- 50-pound class all hovering near the top of the 45-ft pinnacle. One landed a 40 pounder, the other a 50-pound fish. Typically this reef cannot withstand the kind of pressure we were putting on it and the king fish start to go deep and disappear into the hundreds of feet of water surrounding.

It was my turn, but I had low expectations. Surprisingly, I found the same school hovering up-current from the reef in open water. Each time I approached the school, my croaking brought them more shallow. What an awesome sight, a hundred 40-pound fish circling in a vortex just below me in 45-feet of water. Because we limit ourselves to one fish per day, and I was still holding out for a “frog,” I kept looking at the edges for a bigger fish. On the fourth dive onto the school, I saw a bigger fish come in from the side. I aimed and landed what looked like a good shot, but by the time I reached the surface, my float bobbed once and then went still—the beautiful fish tore off. I was surprised and had a hard time even remembering the last fish I lost to a bad shot.

After quickly reloading, I swam up-current to the exact location of the hovering yellow school, hoping they would still be there. When I looked down, I saw a large black yellowtail swimming straight up to the surface followed by the school. On instinct, I dove when I realized that this was my fish, I shot it at close range through the back. It weighed 80-pounds and had a previous spear hole in the perfect kill-shot zone. I’m probably one of few who has second shot his fish with the same spear!

Before heading for the airport, we presented many pounds of smoked kingfish to our adopted Maori tribe at their ceremonial compound and worship house. They acknowledged the gift and provided us with song, gifts and singing. I was given, on behalf of DFAC, a ceremonial fighting stick/sword, one of my favorite gifts of all time.



Being a New Dad has its Privileges By John Hughes

Well, I'm taking my six week paternity leave and my first week of vacation went according to plan. Finished out lobster season with a 79lb 3 day limit after releasing 3 in the 9lb class and then came home and shot my first two seabass. One went 61.3 and the other



went around 30. I started both days diving by discussing the dive plan with my buddies that went like this....."OK boys, let's shoot limits and be home early." I was back on the boat both days in 15 minutes with my fish and waited the rest of the day for the boys to handle their end.

Unfortunately they couldn't pull it off. I gotta get some new dive buddies that can dive the plan. LOL. God is GOOD!!



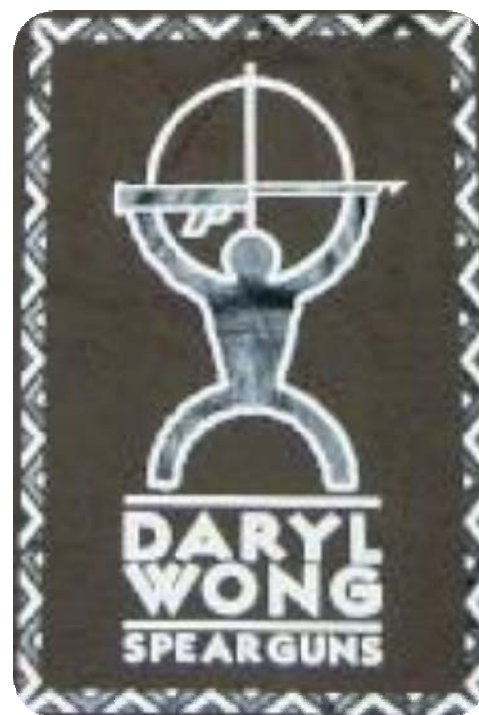
FREEDIVE N SPEAR
Hermosa Beach, California

RIFFE
 YAZBECK
 OMER
 SPORASUB
 C4
 ONE
 ELITE
 ESCLAPEZ
 PICASSO
 SEASNIPER
 BEAUCHAT
 ROB ALLEN
 ETC

310-374-7333

- Custom Rigging
- Gun Repair (All Models)
- All shafts in Stock
- Speargun Parts
- Hard-To-Find Hardware

www.freedivenspear.com



“A Week I’ll Never Forget” By Dave Freeman

With lobster season coming to an end I had one thought in mind. Dethroning Jason Sagen from Chris Oak’s lobster smackdown. A buddy who had recently had open heart surgery was going stir crazy sitting at home. I got this call, "Dave, I can't dive, but the boat doesn't cost any less sitting. I want to take you to Lyle, Steve, Chris, and Jeff's spot so you can have a chance at a dinosaur." It was simple, "I'm in" and we were on our way. Without getting into too much detail I was dropped on a couple spots. The first reef was rather barren but I found

a nice hole in a small cave that was holding a big bug and had a nice one in the boat to start the day off. At the next spot I managed to pole spear a halibut, but it too wasn't holding much. A couple shorts here and there. I swam for a while and was ready to turn the corner. I hoped on board and told my buddy, "Take me to the spot!" I dropped over board and knew it was going to be good. Vis was awesome the area was lively and I couldn't wait to start looking in my favorite caves and ledges. I had been working a big bug at this spot for the last two years and I hoped today was



going to be the day. My first dive down was right into a pile of antenna. I stopped and headed back up as I felt my heart rate jump in excitement. I yelled out to my buddy it's loaded and he yelled back so get the big one! I sat on the surface breathing up mentally working my way into his hole as I had before. I went through how today was going to be different. The last time I had him by the knuckles and ripped him out towards me I learned that the ledge was too thin on the left portion of the entrance and was forced to let him go. So after what felt like a hour of telling myself to dive in and work my way to the right I punched a dive. I hit



the bottom where the entrance is and there's a 7-8#er sitting halfway out. Any other day and I'd go for the grab on this bug, but I want the monster who calls this hole home. I let this bug back up into the cave and turn on my light. It begins to walk back and runs into a 3#er that is next to my big bug. Without thinking I took two big kicks and pinned myself into

the ledge arms extended straight out in front. I watch the small bug smash into the big guy and panic. I then realize I've got my right hand on his left knuckle without knowing I had made the grab. I tug with my right arm and it's a joke he postures up and pulls me back with him. Oh this isn't going to work. I drop the light out of my left hand and feel up to his second horn and make a deep grab into his knuckle. It's now or never. I start to



pull as hard as I can and I get...two inches. I'm visualizing in the dark that he must have his head hooked into the upper portion of the ledge so I start a new technique of pulling as hard as I can downward and I get another two inches. I'm burning at this point, but my contractions haven't kicked in so I know I need to calm down because I've got time. I'm thinking about ripping legs off at this point as a sure fire way to get him out but I don't want to maim

this bug and I need every ounce I can get to dethrone Sagen's 11.8#er this year. So I begin the shake I rattle this bug as much as I can with the four inches of give that I've gotten and I start to feel it loose traction. I yank back as hard and fast as I can and I feel a huge give until CRUNCH. F\$&k I just lodged this guy in-between the bottom and top of the reef. It's over now I'm gassed . I've got one last big move until I have to let go. I pull as hard as I possibly can as I gator roll and to my astonishment I feel a big scrape and the bug is coming out of the ledge with me. I hit the surface and let out a big whoop. I swam the beast back to the boat and celebrated for a bit just staring down at this beauty. Managed to loose only one leg. Would it be enough I didn't know, but I was stoked and my buddy was stoked and that's all that mattered. After a spell bound moment or two I jumped back in and for the next forty five minutes worked bugs out just like the last. Struggling, pulling, fighting,



sometimes taking a single dive for a bug some taking seven or eight attempts. After I had six in the boat I realized this wasn't going to be my largest limit and that it would be fun to look for small bug for comparison. So I passed on 7-10#ers and finally stumbled on my last bug and the smallest I could find to complete my limit.

The week wasn't over for me yet though it was only the beginning. I had an invite four days later to hunt some Wsb and yt and couldn't pass at the opportunity. I had decided this year I would not target wsb. So with that in mind I went out with the hopes of finding yt. By the end of the day I had boated a fifty three pound wsb and passed on a five pound yt. Not bad for not hunting wsb.

And I rounded the week out by trying to get a shaft through a calico for the derby at Catalina. was beautiful and there were some nice island bugs for a good limit. I was lucky to take the two largest fish I had seen for the day, but they didn't cut it at five and a half and six pounds. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to put such an amazing week together. It wouldn't have happened without my friends support and I can't express how grateful I am to them for inviting me.



a


It



Gratuitous and Awesome Neptune Photos



Will and Ivan stoked on some "Year-Round Yellows"

Oceanic
Safety

Systems



Gratuitous and Awesome Neptune Photos



Woody, Todd and Alex
on a last trip before
Lobster closes



Thanks for your Contributions!

I would like to thank all of the contributors to this edition of the Trident: Phil for the historical piece on Jay Riffe. Terry, John and Dave for the great trip reports. Thanks again to Terry for the amazing underwater photos.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the auction

Wishing all in the Neptune Community meaningful connection with one another, fulfilling adventures, and safe diving.

Best Regards and Dive Safe,

Todd Farquhar,

Newsletter Editor

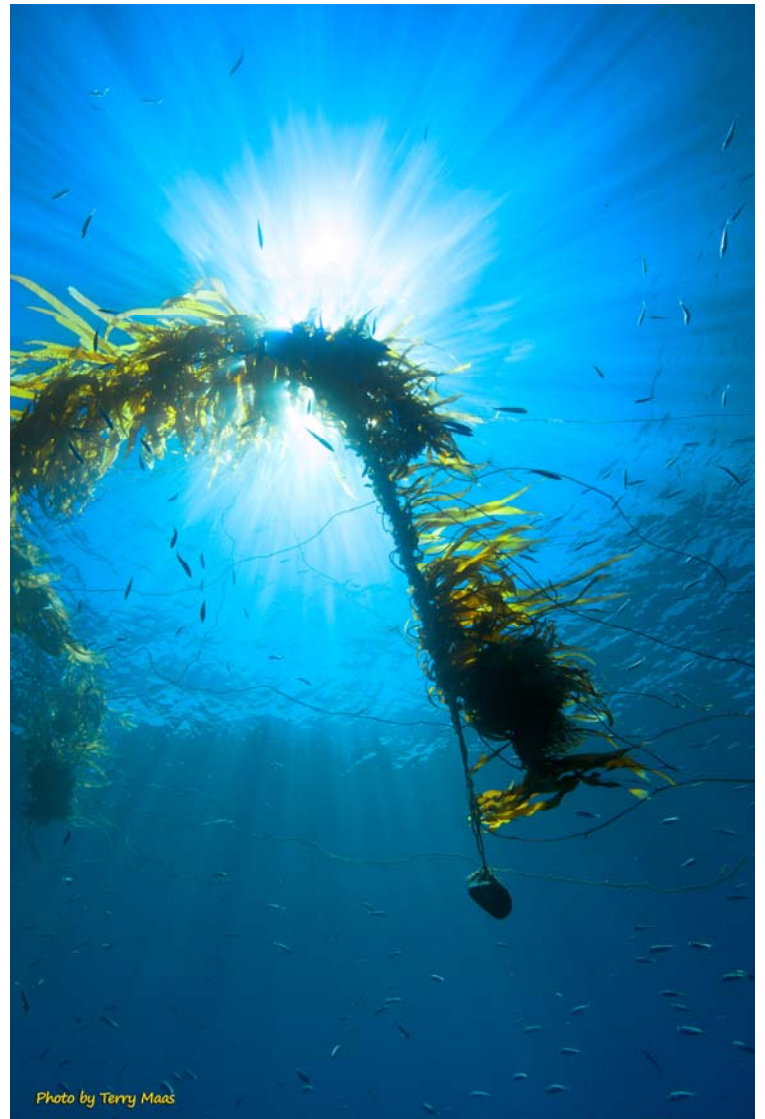


Photo by Terry Maas



Photo by Terry Maas