



FEBRUARY 2014

# TRIDENT



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## 2014 Neptunes Calendar:

Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Meeting – Constitution Vote**  
Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Meeting – Awards Banquet**  
Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Meeting – Auction**  
Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Meeting – Auction**

## Ready For Bugs and Slugs?

Well, it's that time of year again. Lobster season isn't over yet and some guys have been getting some big bugs in the incredible weather we have had so far this year. (good for divers, bad for the farmers) Now it's time to get ready for seabass too. If you play your cards right, you may be able to get that big bug and an early season slug, or maybe that home guard yellow. Just make sure that your clip is secure. Oh, and don't forget to call me with gps coordinates, time of day and any other pertinent information.

Of course, if you aren't ready for seabass season, you better start getting ready. Bad weather in the winter is usually a good time for boat and gear maintenance, but we had such good diving weather this year that many of you may be a bit behind, so if anyone misses that first seabass of the season, just blame it on the good weather we've had and then go sulk in a corner.

When your tears dry, tie new bands, make sure your shaft is straight (ask me why that is important) and be sure that everything is in good working order for the new season.

Trident Newsletter is a publication of the Long Beach Neptunes – a non-profit organization dedicated to the art and lifestyle of spearfishing.

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## Final Fish Standings 2013:

2013 Calico Derby – Paul Zylstra: 11.2 lbs

Calico Bass of the Year – Keith Kaufman: 7.2 lbs

Halibut – Scott de Firmian: 26.1 lbs

Yellowtail – Rick Hadley 40.5 lbs

White Sea Bass – Paul Hugoboom: 68.5 lbs

Bluefin Tuna – Ron Warren: 14.5 lbs

Dorado – Jeff Bilhorn 14.0 lbs

Lobster – Hobie: 12.1 lbs

Big Tuna Out of Country (Yellowfin) – Ron Warren:  
99.6 lbs

Abalone– Mori: 9.625”; 6.06 lbs

Big Fish Out of Country (Reef) – (Broomtail  
Grouper) – John Hughes

Kent McIntyre Award – Rick Hadley: 105.0 lbs total  
weight

## Fish Standings 2014:

2014 Calico Derby – John Hughes:

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Please Thank our Sponsors:

The Long Beach Neptunes would like to thank our sponsors. Please make use of our sponsor's services whenever possible. Also, Mark Strong has been our web master for quite some time now. The Long Beach Neptune website is located at <http://www.longbeachneptunes.com/index.php>.

**BANKS BOARD**

## Remember to Buy a New License and Lobster Card for 2014!

Remember to buy a new fishing license and lobster report card this new year. I don't know about you, but I have seen the DFW more often this past year and I don't want anyone to end up with a hefty fine.

There are some new regulations regarding our lobster report card. Please read the information on the next page. Please note that the due date for the 2013 cards is January 31, 2014 and that they can be reported online if you prefer that to mailing.

**HERRANEN**  
s p e a r g u n s

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Proposed Constitution Change:

**February 5<sup>th</sup>:** A vote will be held at the February meeting to decide on a proposed change to the constitution. The proposed change relates to inactive members. It will clarify their status and the reinstatement process.



## Lobster Report Card Harvest Information Required

The new 2013/2014 Full Season Spiny Lobster Report Cards can be reported online beginning March 20, 2014 and are due by April 30, 2014.

You can report your 2013 Lobster harvest information online at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/harvestreporting/>

Or mail your Lobster Report card to:

CDFW

Lobster Report Card

3883 Ruffin Rd.

San Diego, CA 92123

Note: Report cardholders **who fail to return** their 2013-2014 Full Season Spiny Lobster Report Card or report their harvest online by the April 30, 2014 deadline **will be assessed a \$20 non-return fee when they purchase a spiny lobster report card for the 2014-2015 season.**

For more information on 2013-2014 Spiny Lobster Report Cards, view the [Spiny Lobster Report Card comparison chart.](#)



# Announcements



## Remember to Pay your Dues!

"We are now accepting PayPal as payment for your membership dues, tournament entries, and more! You can send your Long Beach Neptunes payments to: [lbneptunespayment@gmail.com](mailto:lbneptunespayment@gmail.com)

Make sure you choose the "I'm sending money to family or friends" option when sending payments. Also, please include your full name and description for your payment (i.e. Neptune - Membership Dues) in the description field.

There is also a PayPal app for iPhone, Android, and Windows based phones. With this PayPal app, you can make payments on the spot at club meetings, with immediate confirmation, to pay for membership fees, tournament entries, and load up on club merchandise like t-shirts, hoodies, hats, and beanies!

If you don't already have Paypal, sign up at [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com)!"

### **Fred Hall Fishing Tackle and Boat Show:**

The show runs March 5-9 at the Long Beach Convention Center. Show producers recommend coming early & staying late and bringing the whole family. Kids under 16, Free with paid adult. The show runs from 1-9pm Wed-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat and 10am-7pm on Sun. For more details go to: <http://www.fredhall.com/index.php>

*Mark Strong:*

Long Beach Neptunes Webmaster <http://www.longbeachneptunes.com>





## **2013-2014 California Supplemental Sport Fishing Regulations NEW CHANGES!!**

New regulations, regulation changes, and corrections to the 2013-2014 Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet are also published in the supplement. This year, the supplement includes the following regulation changes and corrections:

- Information about spiny lobster regulation changes that will be in effect this fall
- Revised Section 1.74 - **Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements**, which goes into **effect July 1, 2013**

- Correction to Section 28.90, which was recently updated to allow take of striped bass using spearfishing gear and skin or scuba equipment

- **Corrections to incomplete or incorrect marine protected area (MPA)**

information located in the California Marine Protected Area summary table for the following MPAs **(THE GPS#'S HAVE CHANGED)**:

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve

Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area

Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area

White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area

Richardson Rock State and Federal Marine Reserves (San Miguel Is.)

Anacapa State and Federal Marine Reserves (**Anacapa Is.**)

Footprint State and Federal Marine Reserves (**Anacapa Channel**)

Blue Cavern State Marine Conservation Area, and Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area (**Catalina Is.**)

The California Supplemental Sport Fishing Regulations booklet is now available online at [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sportfishing\\_regs2013.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sportfishing_regs2013.asp) or possibly in print at your local sporting goods retailer.

**ELECTRIC**



**SUNGLASSES**



# February President's Message:

Hello, fellow Neptunes!

Now that we've got the holidays behind us, its time to focus on accomplishing new things this year, and enjoying our time together. Its now February, and although our lobster season is winding down, White Seabass season is already upon us! I know you're all looking forward to getting your Big Fish, King Neptune, or Kent McIntyre awards for the year. Good luck out there to everyone!

Your board is working hard to ensure a safe, fun year for everyone. We've got a great kick-off meeting scheduled for February, with some fun speakers lined up, and some motivational stuff as well.

Your Long Beach Neptunes, our nation's most enduring freediving and spearfishing club, is reaching capacity. Its great news, but we also want to ensure our exclusivity, keeping us a tight knit group. Therefore, we have proposed some changes to the verbiage in our constitution, and will be having a vote for all active members at this month's meeting.

So I look forward to hearing your early Seabass stories, and come out and enjoy our 2014 kick-off meeting this Wednesday! Dive safe, and I look forward to seeing everyone out in the water.

Byron Quinonez



# The Safety Zone

The Safety Zone is a new feature of the newsletter that we hope to continue throughout the year. John Carpenter has selflessly agreed to facilitate the conversation that we hope and feel will benefit the club by by discussing and presenting ideas about safety and safe practices based upon the extensive and varied experiences of the club members. If it is to be successful, we, as a club, must all participate. John is highly skilled and knowledgeable, but we need the input of everyone in the club. Your contribution need not be a full article. If you have one or two ideas that can be helpful, please submit them. Please send your articles to John at [jfcarpenter404@gmail.com](mailto:jfcarpenter404@gmail.com)

## Safely Landing White Seabass:

I did not receive input from anybody besides Paul Zylstra regarding soliciting information for this month's subject on landing large white seabass after they have tangled. Remember, this "Safety Corner" is better when it includes the collective input of many versus just one. Therefore, the following article is based mostly on my personal experience and past discussions with other spearos. If I missed an important consideration, you should have emailed me.

Just about every safety consideration in our sport includes preparation, equipment, knowledge, and sound decision-making. At the risk of stating the obvious – I hope your "New Year's" resolution includes improving your health and/or getting into good diving condition. Common sense dictates what you need to do and there are plenty of books and articles on the subject. Why is this important? The benefits relative to our sport are improved stamina and the ability to safely dive longer and deeper as well as being able to "spot" or if need be, rescue your partner. It's not just about you...

Thinking about this month's subject is similar to discussing a SWAT entry plan with experienced tactical operators. Give them a mission, and they will each have their

unique way of accomplishing the goal; no one plan necessarily better than the other. However, every plan has one goal that is paramount; Safety! The lesson here is to speak with other divers and absorb their knowledge and experience. There's always something to be learned from others!

Before we get too involved in this discussion, let's start off with one simple thought that should guide everything else. No fish is worth your life; period! We need to front load the discussion with a few absolutes. First, boat owners need to keep a scuba tank on their boat and encourage its use by anybody certified to use scuba. If



**ATOMIC**  
**AQUATICS**



you are a boat owner and not scuba certified, then take a class! Those of you on Kayaks should keep a small tank available. With few exceptions, YOU are primarily responsible for those you take diving! USING SCUBA IS THE SAFEST WAY TO LAND A FISH THAT HAS TANGLED CLOSE TO ONE'S ABILITY TO SAFELY RETRIVE THE FISH. Use a spotter whenever you are diving on a fish that has tangled close to your ability to safely retrieve it, *regardless of depth*. Finally, if the above are not options, don't hesitate to CUT YOUR LINE and LIVE to hunt another day!

I recall an incident years ago where I had shot a 35 lb. WSB off PV that had tangled about 30'. Although the depth alone was not an issue, the kelp was EXTREMELY thick and I could not find the fish because it was severely tangled. Added to the situation was the deteriorating, very poor visibility; less than two feet in the middle of the kelp. The rest of the divers were on the boat, and I yelled for one of my boat partners to swim over and spot me. However, they ignored me for reasons unbeknownst other than it was a long swim, they didn't want to move the boat and/or they knew it was shallow and I should be able to handle the situation. Our beloved Neptune, Rick Hadley, pulled up in another boat and assisted me with safely landing the fish. Needless to say, I later had a serious discussion with my dive buddies. The point here is that DEPTH is not the sole consideration; you can drown in only two feet of water. Carefully assess everything!

This discussion brings up the "pink elephant" in the room that we do not like talking about: DIVING ALONE. I hate to acknowledge it, but I dive alone about one-third of the time and it really pisses-off my wife. I'm getting better at not doing it, but honestly...I'm still in recovery. Bottom line is that it's really stupid; don't do it! One of my "near misses" was recovering a 55lb WSB 60' deep, a quarter-mile down current from my boat. I did not want to swim back, move the boat, grab a tank, etc. I had made repeated dives against the current to find & recover the fish. I was more exhausted than I realized during the final dive, and it nearly cost me my life.

Always remember that sleep, how well you feel THAT day, and conditions all impact dive safety. Making a 75' freedive in the warm, clear waters of Cozumel is far easier than making even a 50' So Cal dive in cold water, against a current,



encumbered in a 5-7mil suit & heavy weight belt, and in low visibility conditions with an accelerated heart rate after spearing a prized fish. Also, consider the drag of a larger fish while you're ascending. What about the prevalence of seven-gill sharks showing up? They've been an increasing problem in San Diego County and often weigh several hundred pounds. In addition to inadvertently getting bit while retrieving your fish, they present the more likely danger of line entanglement; Ditto for sea lions. The bottom line is that it all plays into safety and you cannot underestimate the

situation. I can't give you an absolute on how to handle each situation other than to THINK AHEAD, be mindful of the possibility. Anticipate the dangers and have a mental plan in place on how you can minimize these threats should you encounter them. Remember, complacency kills!

I won't get into guns per se, but other equipment such as reels, float lines, leader lines, utility floats, type of weight belt/harness, and knives are worthy of discussion. As important is how you utilize them...

**Reels vs. Float lines.** I was mentored in the days when most divers used reels. The only time I would use a float-line was in Baja or diving Catalina while pulling a float to alert boaters, etc. However, I've been experimenting with float lines in kelp the last couple of years and I believe they are safer. Leader line aside, high quality float line doesn't tangle nearly as easily as reel line, and it is easier to safely "brake" or slow a larger fish while holding a float line.

**Leader line.** Brightly marked leader line is much easier to find and untangle than clear line. Finding your line quicker makes your dives more productive and safe.

**Utility Floats.** They serve several purposes, but their most common use is marking a diver's location. We use them to cinch-up line, hang guns, etc. I also know some divers who like to use the utility float to help raise large fish. They clip-off and activate the "popper" on the leader line side near the fish and unhook and/or cut the leader line. One consideration with this technique is to ensure that the float has enough lift capacity at deeper depths. Another important consideration is that being properly weighted for 25' is not the same as being safely weighted for 40' and beyond. Utility floats are excellent for "hanging" extra weight when you are preparing to dive deeper to retrieve that fish.

**Weight belts/harnesses.** The use of harnesses versus weight belts is increasingly more popular. Many divers like the harness because it spreads



Systems

out the weight and is easier on the lower back and hamstrings. The disadvantage is the inability to as effectively unbuckle & hold it like you can a regular belt while ascending so that it will fall off in case of shallow water blackout. One thing that can be done to minimize this problem is to use two weight belts. One, around the waist and a harness. The harness should hold no more than half of your weight. The waist belt can be dropped quickly and easily giving a significant increase in buoyancy. It is still may not as good as dropping all of the weight, but will get you to the surface if you were not drastically overweighted.

Some of us like to weight ourselves heavy when diving for white seabass. While this is not wise by itself, be very aware that it impacts your ability to dive safely and might be the determining factor on whether or not you return to the surface after what you thought was a “routine” depth for you. Although I sometimes do it, I make sure that I dive SHALLOW and limit my bottom time when weighted heavier than normal.

**Knives.** Line entanglement is one of our greatest dangers. When selecting a knife, make sure it will easily cut the line you are using and that you securely attached it to a portion of your body where you can quickly access it. Some like wearing knives across the chest, some upper arm. Buying a knife is not a time when you want to go “cheap.” However, paying a lot of money for a particular knife is not a guarantee that it will serve you appropriately. If you use cable, make sure you have quality cutters on you. Tom Keough, an extremely accomplished San Diego freediver, taught me to test any knife or cutter on the material you plan to cut before finding out that it might not be all that efficient in a life & death situation. I’ve thrown away several knives that did not “make the cut!”

Maintain your gear! (replace rubber, worn/frayed spectra and leader line, double crimp, etc.) This has as much to do with safety as it does with not losing gear or fish. Well-maintained gear allows you the peace of mind to efficiently “brake” fish after a very well place shot. Consciously make it a point to shoot any fish, especially larger ones, where you’ll put a hurt on them; head, shoulder & pectoral fin area. In addition to less of a chance of the fish tearing out, immediately slowing down a big fish after a well-placed shot usually results in them tangling much shallower when shot in the upper water column.

One common technique that works most of the time when the reel line is not too badly tangled is clipping-off the utility float to the gun and putting the reel in free spool before your dive (obviously you do this after the fish is spent). I grab the fish, brain it, and pull the line up through the kelp.

Lyle Davis, an extremely accomplished spearo, likes to dive below the fish and cut all the kelp, thus allowing him to pull the fish, kelp stalk included, to the surface.

**MAKO**  
**SPEARGUNS**

Leader line and crimps are cheap; don't be afraid to cut leader or reel line when necessary. I always keep plenty of line and crimps on my boat. My first dive usually results in me assessing and/or "braining" the fish. If I feel good and conditions allow, I unsnap or if quicker cut the leader line and drag the fish to the surface on the first dive. If not, I handle it on the second dive. Although I sometimes accomplish this in one dive, I usually get it done in no more than two dives. Yes, you run the risk of the fish going berserk and swimming away after releasing the line, but it's safer than repeatedly diving deep, cutting kelp, etc., before having to make that one final dive you might be too exhausted to safely make. I've never lost a fish doing this...

Don't be afraid to shoot a fish with a second gun. This technique worked well for me on a large YT that tangled deep a few years ago. The fish was about 75', and I was tired from diving all day, multiple dives and fending off two LARGE seven-gill sharks. Fortunately my YT was initially hidden thick in the kelp, and the sharks had problems finding my fish. While not wise, I knew swimming back to the boat and grabbing a tank would most likely result in a meal for the sharks. I powered down to around 60', quickly cut my original line, and shot the spent fish with my partner's gun before quickly pulling up everything. The lesson here is to slow down and carefully assess the situation rather than quickly pushing more difficult dives within a shorter period of time.

Which brings up a very important issue; surface interval time. Before Suunto style watches, we simply held our hand across our chest and waited until our heart rate was sufficiently reduced. Today, I dive with a Suunto watch and carefully monitor my submerged and surface interval times. Everything else being equal, I like to keep my surface interval times at least twice my submerged time when diving below 30'. If I'm diving 50-60', it's around 5 minutes. This is MY comfort zone when everything else is equal. You need to figure out what YOUR safe submerged and surface interval times should be based on your health, experience, and comfort level.

As always, DIVE SAFE!

John Carpenter





# Gilbert Gacula

## Rip

We have recently lost another brother in our sport. Gilbert Gacula was well known for making fine spearguns, many of which are used by Neptunes. His guns were known for both form and function. Many people referring to them as works of art. He leaves behind a wife and four children. He died of complications resulting from cancer.

He had been fighting cancer for some time and was still undergoing light chemotherapy, but had been in remission since September. Unfortunately, he caught a small cold which led to pneumonia. Shortly after, his kidneys failed and he was on dialysis, but his lungs continued to get worse. After being on life support, he recently lost his fight.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of a man that touched many through his beautiful guns and his wonderful personality.





# My Trip of a Lifetime: Three Months in Hawaii

By Hobie Ladd

Sept. 11th I flew to Maui to visit my friend that wants me to move there. The next day we flew to Oahu, where he put me to work on his 25 foot sailboat which he bought for 700 dollars. For the next 3 days, we spent the all of our time re-rigging the cables on it, then on the fourth day we were off; following his friends in their 27 ft sailboat. The plan was to sail from Waianae to Honolulu. Nine hours later we were there, but it was an adventure. It was the first time I've ever sailed and my buddy Adrian's 3rd time, while the guys in the other boat were accomplished sailors.

After three more days of boat maintenance in Honolulu, we set sail again to Molokai, this time at night, following the red light on the stern of the other boat! I was starting to wonder what the hell I've just gotten myself into but it was too late. We were crossing the channel into the wind and waves. I had my wetsuit on, lifejacket on, dive light strapped to my jacket and a rope tied around my waist. Adrian said, "we're doin it!! We were switching off at the helm every 2-3 hours following the little red light on the back of the other boat that we could barely see at times, but with the swell and the wind picking up, there was no turning back. One wave came over the front of the boat and flooded us, and killed the motor! With just the sails we finally got the motor running again, and by some miracle we were able to the red light again and eventually we caught up with the other boat.

After sailing all night, our legs began cramping up as it started getting light out. We were sailing with Molokai to our left when I looked over at the other boat on my right and saw the biggest shark fin I've ever seen.

The closer we got to the island, the less wind and swell there was which made me feel the safer than I had felt since we left! After sailing eleven hours from Honolulu we reached the wharf on Molokai. It sure felt good to be on land! The



**MOANA**  
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water around the wharf was dirty and un-diveable! 2 days later we sailed to Lanai and finally I got to get into the water, the clearest water I've ever seen. Not being able to get near a fish was frustrating, but the reef and tropical fish were beautiful.

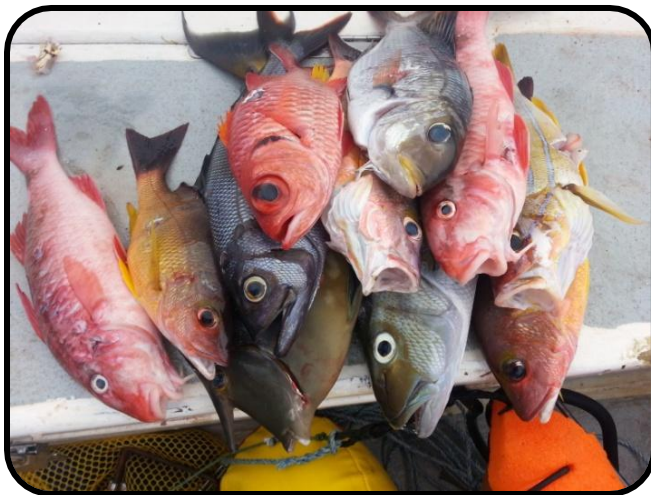
Finally I shot my first fish a table boss I think is what they call it, not very big, maybe 12 inches. Then I found a big swim through about 20 feet deep with a cave on the side full of small red fish (menpachi) I shot a few and another bigger red fish with a big spike on each gill. An ala ihi, they call it.

After diving Lanai, we sailed around the rest of the island and then back to Molokai. We spent another 4 days on Molokai fixing the rudder on the other boat that broke during the



crossing. A local named Ernie who had a machine shop in town did all the welding free of charge.

After the welding was finished, we glassed the rudder back together and took off towards the west side of Molokai where we found an awesome little beach to anchor



and dive again. Diving to 40 feet and learning how to hide from the fish I started having more success shooting fish. They were small fish but we got a bunch and I shot my first uku (jobfish) before a couple of 7-8 ft. Galapagos sharks came in on us and we just chased them off! Then I noticed about a 10 ft Galapagos shark butt my stringer on my float so I swam at him with my gun pointed at him and it swam away to the edge of visibility and stayed there, waiting for a chance at my fish! We went back to the boat and cleaned our fish then jumped in to swim to the other boat for lunch and there was one of the 7 ft. Sharks under the boat eating the fish guts and heads. I got my go pro and videoed the shark for a while. Then we sailed all night long back to the



THE SILENT HUNTER



west side off Oahu. It was another long crazy night but we made it...wow! what an introduction to the islands!!!

Back on Maui I worked with Adrian a little bit and when work was slow we dove. Lots of small fish, then one day on a beach dive three Wahoo came in on us in 25 feet of water then they disappeared. Ten minutes later they came back and Adrian got a shot off on the biggest one, about 30 lbs. He shot it with a small jbl woody with a single flopper, it eventually ripped off!! It was still an awesome day in the water.



One day we were diving to 65 feet and laying on the bottom getting some good

bottom time. I swam in a little shallower and saw a nice uku and dropped down on it and watched it just swim away as I reached the bottom at 37 ft. The fish stopped about 40 ft away from me. As I was laying on the bottom, I pulled a spoon out of my sleeve and waved it over my head, the fish swam straight towards me and turned sideways and gave me a perfect shot! Nailed it! I couldn't believe that worked!



it was about a ten pound uku. The biggest fish I shot during the whole trip!

Later, we took his motorboat from Maui to Molokai and Lanai. This time it was a better trip. There was no wind, no swell and it was perfectly flat. We shot a lot of small fish, kumu's, Mu and a lot of others in great conditions.

After returning back to Maui, we went to Hana, but the waves were big and we didn't dive so we hiked the bamboo forest to a big waterfall and had a blast.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> to last dive on Maui I was fixing my weight belt with my gun when, on the bottom at 30 feet, a 14 foot tiger shark came from behind me and swam right under me. It looked like it ate a cow it was so big!!!! I was happy it kept on swimming. I proceeded to swim over to, my buddy!





For my last dive we took the boat to Molokini, a sanctuary and just dove with the go pro and videoed schools of omilu's (blue uluas) along with monster mu's. And uku's . On the way back we were treated to the best sunset I've ever seen. I took a photo and right when I did , two humpback whales breached and I got it by accident. It was the end to an awesome 3 month trip!! The next day, I flew back to Cali. All in all it was a great trip. There were no huge fish but it was a great experience. I

learned a lot and now I can dive deeper and have a better bottom time than I've ever had. Thanks to my dive buddy Adrian Gibson for helping me to do it up right!!!

Aloha!

*Hobie*





# Proposed Constitutional Changes: Voting to take place at the February meeting 2/5/14

Dear members:

Our club is near capacity. We wish to continue our level of exclusivity, yet there are several members that are not actively paying their dues, and therefore may keep several of our active tentatives from membership, based on our current constitution's verbiage. Therefore, our board has proposed the following changes to Section 15 B of our constitution. The approval of this verbiage will be voted on by all active members at our February meeting, 2/5/14.

## Section 15: Membership

### **Current verbiage:**

B. Any club member who has not paid their dues and allowed their membership to lapse will be considered a "Non-Active" member. Non-active members do not have voting privileges and are not allowed to participate in any of the annual club awards. Also, they will be dropped from the roster and will no longer receive any correspondences that the club generates, including the newsletter. A non-active member can be reinstated to full-membership again by paying their annual membership dues.

### **Proposed changed verbiage:**

B. Any club member who has not paid their dues for one year and allowed their membership to lapse will be considered a "Non-Active" member. Non-active members do not have voting privileges and are not allowed to participate in any of the annual club awards. Also, they will be dropped from the roster and will no longer receive any correspondences that the club generates, including the newsletter. A non-active member can be reinstated to full-membership again by paying their annual membership dues, but must wait for a club vacancy if the roster is at capacity of 75 members.



# Tentative Corner:

## Todd and Kory Bersuch

Hello Guys, this is Kory and Todd Bersuch. We are three years apart, I am 28 years old, my brother Todd is 31 and we grew up in Sunset Beach, CA. We do a lot together, we lived together for awhile, we both work at Paul's Glass Company in Long Beach (family owned), and we are always diving together on Todd's 31' Jupiter, Glassbreaker. We have been tentative to the club since Dec. 2013.

Our whole lives we have grown up on the ocean and our dad always had boats as we were growing up. He himself was an avid fisherman, which eventually led us into fishing. Although, we didn't pick up the sport of spearfishing until about 5 years ago, when we finally realized that it was actually possible to hunt these fish that we so seldom caught while fishing with our Dad all of those years.

My first gun was a Rob Allen 110; I had a lot of fun shooting calico with that gun. Then I became infatuated with the speargun, I've always enjoyed making things, so when I found out it was possible to make a speargun, I was addicted. I now build all of my own guns, my brothers guns, and a few of my friends have trusted me to make them some guns as well.

About 4 years ago my brother received shipment of his Jupiter from New York, and now we were getting wet every chance we could. We were fortunate to have some friends that already had a lot of experience in the sport. Not to long after the boat arrived, we were on our first real spearfishing trip to SCI. This



# *morifish*

was one of our more memorable trips. My brother and I were still very new to the sport, only wearing borrowed suits from friends we were ready to explore what the island had to offer. This trip absolutely spoiled us; it was like shooting fish in a barrel. Yellowtail were everywhere, still to this day we have never ran into fish like we did on this weekend. Our buddy even got a late season WSB this trip, which really got us itching.

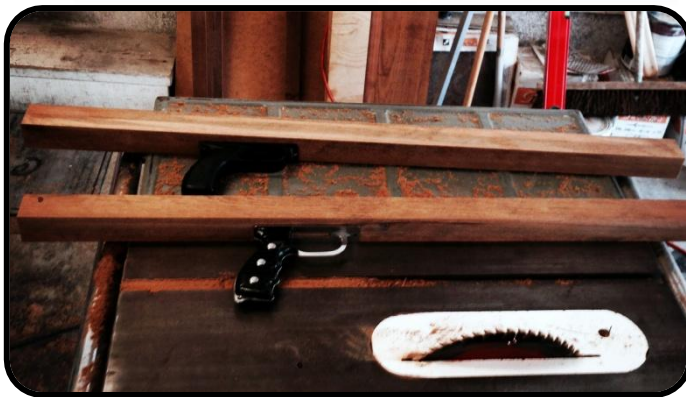
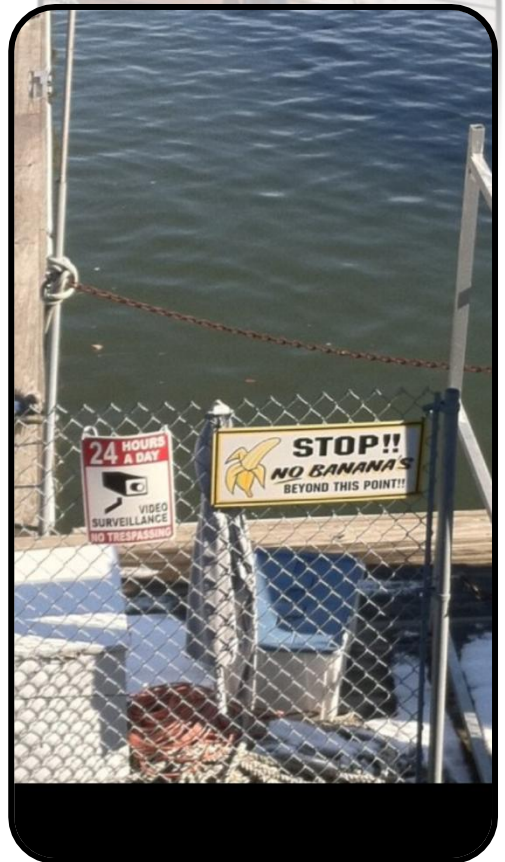
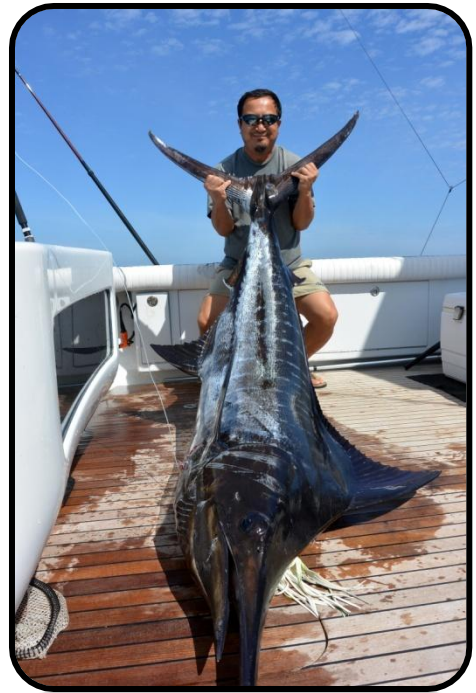
And so it began, the miserable desire, we both wanted to hunt the ever so elusive White Sea Bass. Dive after dive, again and again in freezing cold murky water, we were both rewarded with our prize. These aren't the first fish we shot, just a few favorite photos from over the years.





We are both very excited to become apart of the Neptune's, I know this sport isn't just about shooting fish, its also about learning how to be safe while doing it. One of the many reasons we wanted to join was so we can learn every aspect of the sport, broaden our horizons, and meet new dive buddies. I wanted to thank my sponsor, Steve Parkford and a special thanks to Todd's sponsor Jeff Benedict for talking us into coming to our first meeting. We are looking forward to a great future with the Long Beach Neptune's.







# LEAD DIVE WEIGHTS FOR SALE

I have new uncoated Standard lead weights for belts or integrated pockets. Weights vary from 2lbs to 5lbs and the price is only \$3.25 per lb, no tax!

I also make custom weights that I call "Quick Weights". They use heavy rubber tubing to loop and lock over the belt. These weights are available from 2lb to 5.5lbs. No keepers are needed to hold them in place on the belt. These are perfect to quickly add or remove weights without unthreading everything.

For hunting, quickly remove 5-6lb for better buoyancy when free diving 25'-40' or quickly add 2-3lb when free diving shallow for Halibut. Other great uses for Quick Weights are to loop a 4lb+ weight on your free dive weight belt if you want to SCUBA dive or visa versa. No need to set up two belts.

These are perfect for dive instructors to get students dialed in fast. The rubber loop is perfect to clip onto a gate clip or karabiner. They can clamp onto BCD's shoulder straps and tank straps too. The rubber has a lifetime guarantee. I'll replace it free if it ever goes bad. The price on these custom made weights is \$5.00 per lb, no tax!

Email any questions to me at: [conservation@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:conservation@pacificexplorers.org)

Dive safe,

Mark Navas



**JAMES & JOSEPH**  
SPEARFISHING SUPPLIES  
SAN DIEGO





I want to start by thanking the people that have made this issue possible. Hobie came through with a great story of his epic trip to Hawaii. John Carpenter wrote a great article addressing safety issues when hunting and retrieving white seabass and the Bersuch brothers came wrote an excellent introduction detailing their affliction with spearfishing disease.

I'm asking that everyone contribute to at least one issue this year. It can be small or large. I know that many of you have a great deal of experience that can be shared in the safety corner. A full article would be great, but it can be a paragraph or two as well. If you have some photos, send them in with a short description, or send in a story. Stories do not have to be long.

This first half of the year is our busiest and will set the tone for the rest of the year. John Hughes is the first on the board for the calico derby. The March meeting will feature the awards ceremony and then April features the always exciting Auction. Remember to bring in any useable items that someone else may want. Those items can, of course be dive related, but they don't have to be. After the auction, we will have one month to regroup and prepare for the annual Blue Water Meet. The Blue Water Meet is one of the oldest and most prestigious events in the entire spearfishing world. Do not miss it if at all possible.

As you can see, we have a lot to look forward to.

Oh, I almost forgot, there will be a lot of good diving during the next few months too. Don't miss out on that!

*Louis Rosales*

Long Beach Neptunes Newsletter Editor



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