



TRIDENT

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

Are You Ready???

If you weren't already thinking about when and where the white sea bass will show up first, this photo should help you get focused on the subject.

Leave it to a Neptune to bring in what looks to be the first toad of the season. See page 9 to find out who it is that got the job done here.

It is also early in the year for the club, and a solid one at that. The Club is out of the blocks with a strong start to the year with; First aid kits and training, club jackets order, more Neptune merchandise on the way, awards banquet planning, preparations for the big auction, and much more.

So be sure to log onto our new web site to find all of the latest info (kudos to Wardo!) and plan to attend our meetings and events because they will be packed with good information and good times with your fellow Neptunes that you will not want to miss.



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Neptune To Do's:

- ❑ Plan to attend February meeting (2/4) to receive First Aid/Trauma training
- ❑ Pay dues if you have not already (Note: Dues paid after the March Meeting will include Late Fees!!!)
- ❑ Club Jacket : March Meeting (3/5) is the Deadline to Place your order (Pg 7)

2015 Neptunes Calendar:

February 4th – Life Saving Techniques- hands on training
 March 5th – Awards Banquet – Location TBD
 March 4th thru 8th– Fred Hall Show, Long Beach
 April 1st – Club Auction
 May 6th – Manufacturers’ Night – Deliver Club Jackets
 June 3rd – BWM application due
 June 13 – BWM
 July 1st – BWM Awards
 August – TBD
 Sept.2nd – TBD
 Oct. 7th – Fall Classic applications due
 Oct. 24th - Fall Classic
 Nov. 4th – Fall Classic Awards

Be sure to visit our New and Updated web site at:

LongBeachNeptunes.com

Thanks to Brandon Ward (Wardo) for the Amazing Work!!!





Photo by Terry Maas

2015 Fish Standings

California

Barracuda:	Open
Bonito:	Open
Calico Bass:	Open
Calico Derby:	Keith Kaufmen: 6.9 lbs
Dorado:	Open
Halibut:	Open
Kent McIntrye:	Open
Lobster:	Open
Sheepshead:	Open
Tuna:	Open
White Sea Bass:	Open
Yellowtail:	Open

Out of Country

Reef Fish:	Open
Pelagic:	Open



Photo by Terry Maas

February 2015 President's Message

Greetings, Fellow Neptunes!

I hope everyone is enjoying the waning days of your lobster season, and a "continued!" Yellowtail season! Rumor has it, one of our members has collected the first known seabass of the year, but that's on the D.L....

Thanks everyone for a well attended January meeting! A fun time was had by all, and we want to congratulate the raffle winners (even if Hobie and Phil cornered all the prizes)! The meeting was a great kick-off to the year, and a fun gathering for our brotherhood. We look forward to similar events this year.

Special thanks to VP Keith Kauff, for arranging our February meeting. Keith has led the charge as we continue to strive for safety-focused education. We're honored to have leading Trauma/ER doctors provide hands-on training for the February meeting, including how to use tourniquets, quick-clot, and more. For those of you that ordered medical kits, they will be available on Wednesday. Thanks again to Keith for putting this together!

Just a few things to note:

Don't forget to check out recent updates to our website, www.longbeachneptunes.com. Thanks to Wardo for his continued hard work, and don't forget to check out the Historical Diver Photos!

- Don't forget our **Fish Photo Contest!** Your pictures will be recognized in the newsletter as well as website, but don't forget there's a Grand Prize! The winner will have a free Christmas Dinner for two, covered by the club! **SUBMIT YOUR FISH PICS!**
- **Club jackets!** Don't forget to submit your orders to Bruce today! Orders must be placed and paid by our March meeting, and jackets will be delivered at our May meeting.
- **Calico Derby!** Don't forget to deliver your submissions to Keith. Remember, this is open to tentatives as well as members. If my memory serves me, **Paul Zylstra** was the last tentative to win the tournament. Hmmm, maybe *his* tentative can fill those shoes...
- March 5th: **Awards Banquet!**
- April 1st - **Auction!**

But don't forget the **February Meeting: Trauma/First Aid Training**. This should almost be mandatory for all members. We have a 2 hour session mapped out, so please be there by 7pm, so we can start by 7:30 sharp. This training may help save someone's life down the road (or at least help us out when we accidentally stab ourselves trying to brain a fish!)

So let's make this a safe, fun year, and let's continue to build on our legacy. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our February First Aid/Trauma Training meeting, and I look forward to the year ahead of us.

Sincerely,

Byron Quinonez



Congratulations and Welcome to our newest member, Todd Norell!!!

Todd's was sponsored by Seamus Callaghan and Voted in at the February meeting.



A dark-themed advertisement for "FREEDIVE N SPEAR". At the top left is a logo featuring a stylized eagle with its wings spread, perched on a spear. To the right of the logo, the text "FREEDIVE N SPEAR" is written in a large, white, serif font, with "Hermosa Beach, California" in a smaller font below it. The background of the ad shows a diver in a wetsuit and mask holding a large fish. On the left side, a list of names is provided: RIFFE, YAZBECK, OMER, SPORASUB, C4, ONE, ELITE, ESCLAPEZ, PICASSO, SEASNIPER, BEAUCHAT, ROB ALLEN, ETC. On the right side, the phone number "310-374-7333" is listed, followed by a list of services: Custom Rigging, Gun Repair (All Models), All shafts in Stock, Speargun Parts, and Hard-To-Find Hardware. At the bottom, the website "www.freedivenspear.com" is displayed.

Neptunes History

Thanks to past Newsletter Editor Phil Polanco for this submittal of an article that he featured in the Trident over a decade ago.

Ladies first...

It's late morning in Long Beach, California. I'm sitting in the warm sun and chatting with diving pioneer Dottie Frazier.

Born in 1922, she began freediving at the age of seven or eight (for a coffee pot accidentally dropped overboard by her father). She was nine when she landed her first job, transferring fishermen on a small boat to and from the fishing barge. At the age of twelve she found herself making coffee and sandwiches on a purse seiner. By that time, she was freediving for Abalone, Lobster and spearing fish. While living with her father on his boat, she was able to fine tune her skills. Her father made her first diving mask from a fire-hose and a piece of glass.

Dottie is a strong, fiesty, yet very friendly and sweet woman. It appears that she has always been. At the age of ten, she had a swimming accident and with a broken back was in a body cast for eighteen months. "They said I would never walk again", she told me. Without surprise, Dottie recovered and soon won championships for seven straight years as a competitive swimmer, became a safety instructor at the Long Beach Bathhouse and served many years on the Long Beach Charter's water safety committee.

Like the rest of us, she loves to talk diving. We walked over and she showed me her garden. Tomatoes, potatoes, raspberries, boysenberries, fruit trees and the list goes on. "Do you know what this is?" as I am staring at this small, round and dark thing, "It's Passion Fruit, you have to try it". She begins to cut it for me. The conversation never strays far from freediving. She begins to tell me how the waters were so abundant with Lobster and Abalone. "My biggest bug was 20 lbs...I only weighed 90 lbs at the time and he just about pulled me over backwards and tore my dry suit!...I've got more than my share"

At that time, most women were content just to sun themselves on the beach, so her diving comrades were all male. They included Lee Jamieson, Herb Sampson, Doc Mathieson and Jack Ward. This list continued to grow. Some of them branched off to form the Long Beach Neptunes. Dottie is a charter member and the *only* one still living.

To supplement her income, Dottie would dive for Lobster, Abalone and spearing fish while friends would look after her young children on the beach. "I just got on with it", she said. "I had a friend of mine who

would raise a red flag when she needed me or if I was needed to go and breastfeed my youngest son. I was in the water all day if I had to be".

One day while spearfishing, she was knocked out by a large Sea Lion that rammed her to steal the fish that she had tied around her waist. She was pulled out of the water by her buddies when they saw her sinking. The assault left her with four broken ribs.

On a trip to Bahia de Los Angeles in the Gulf, she talks about her experience. "There were six of us, I was the only female. I was making it back to the boat. Doc, Jack and the guys had alot of fish and I was loaded with Lobster. When I was about 100' from the boat I heard, "Dottie, shark!" I saw the fin on the surface and it was huge! As it circled me, I

Dottie with a huge bug. Dana Point 1940's
"We went back the next day and I swam straight to the same hole, in shallow and I got a few more"



I dropped my bag of Lobster and kept him in front of me. I didn't know what to do. I kept diving down again and again so it wouldn't rush me on the surface, but I was exhausted. The anchor was stuck so they couldn't get me and they were not about to get in the water. (The divers from the boat guessed it to be over 20') This went on for 15-20 minutes.

In desperation, I swam straight for him. The water was crystal clear and the guys could see everything. They told me later, "We thought you were crazy!" I just figured, that if this was the end I wanted it to be quick. But, you know what? He just turned away. Long enough for me to get to the boat".

In 1955, she enrolled in the Los Angeles County Instructors Course. Dottie, gives all credit to Jim Christiansen. "He called me and wanted me to go with him and take the course, I told him he was crazy. I had never even tried SCUBA." Jim said, "I'll teach you" Dottie recieved a letter from Al Tillman stating that the course was not for women and there must be a mistake. Big Jim was furious and told her to forget the letter. "you're going with me!" Jim told me. Amid plenty of resentment from other students, all male, and from the instructor. She took top honors for the class in waterworks. She had become the *first* female SCUBA instructor in the United States. She told me, "I could not have done it without Jim".

Al Tillman later sent Dottie another letter, offering her a position with the County setting up programs for teaching women.

Dottie has also had her share of commercial diving. After taking a hardhat course in 1960, Frazier worked for an insurance company recovering lost items and investigating boat sinkings. She didn't like being restricted in the heavy gear. "It was difficult to move, the suits were all too big and they had to be tied at the wrists...and the shoes!" she laughs, "were huge".

Dottie has been diving in many places. Along the coast of California up to Alaska, New Zealand, Australia, the Caribbean and Italy. "I have even dived with the Ama (pearl divers) divers in Japan...but, nothing beats California in the old days".

At just over five-feet tall, 110lbs and 80 yrs young, she is a ball of energy. She is at the gym every morning, plays raquetball four times a week, water skiis, loves to freedive and ride her motorcycle.

Dottie, you are one of a kind! Phil Polanco

If you have some Neptune history to share, please contact me to get your account on the record.

Thanks, Todd (call me at 805-587-6637 or email me at tfarquhar@me.com)

Don't Forget to Get in on the Club Jacket Order

If you don't already have one you will want to get in on the Club Jacket order. It has been five or more years since the last time they were offered so putting this off if you need one will set you up for a long wait. Here are the details that you need to know:



- Tru West brand Diving Jacket specifically made to be worn over a wetsuit
- Cost is \$80 Plus \$5 for the patch if you need one. Cost includes embroidery and sewing of patch.

(Some may already have a patch to put on like Ivan S. and John J. with their King Neptune Patches #38 & #39- Congrats guys!!! Tentatives can order a jacket now and add the patch later.)

- Offered in size Large or Extra Large
- Orders must be placed and paid by meeting on March 4th.

(Disclaimer: Mori's teddy bear not included)

morifish



ATOMIC AQUATICS

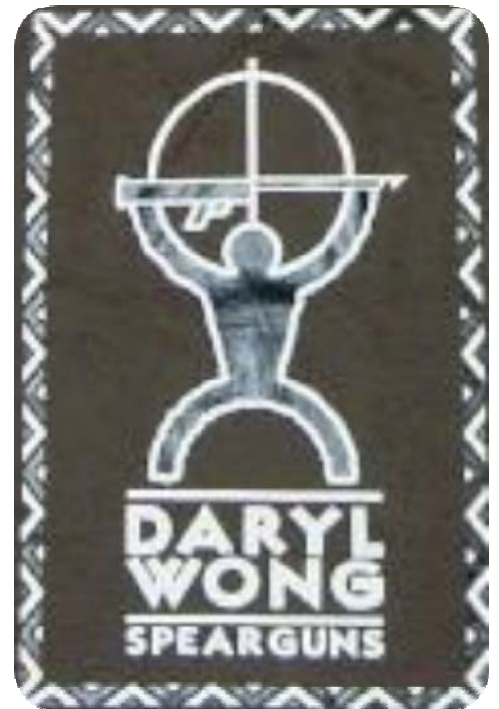
Fish and Wildlife Information and Updates

MPA Regulation Updates to Know About (Effective 10/1/14)

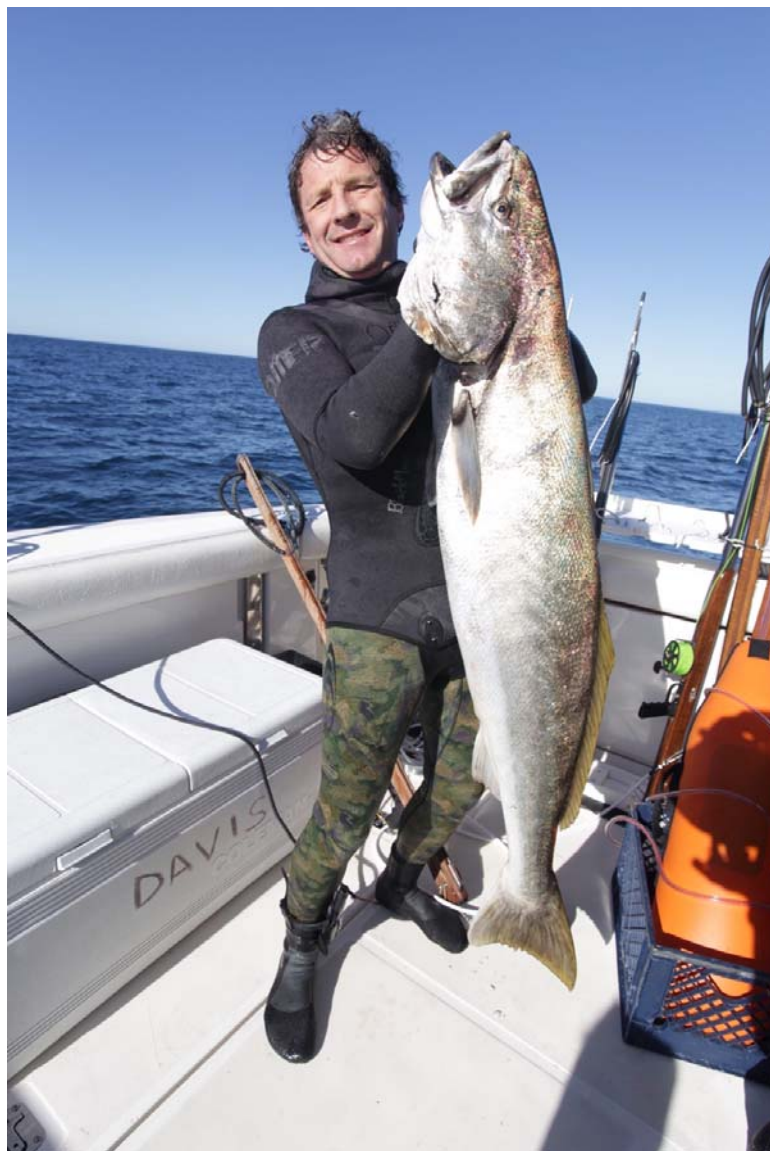
- ◆ Adding Pacific bonito to the “pelagic finfish” group
- ◆ Providing for transit of MPAs with spearfishing gear
- ◆ Changing the name of three MPAs in central and southern California
- ◆ Adjusting a boundary at Lovers Cove State Marine Conservation Area on Catalina Island

Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Dates to Keep Track of

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



Congrats Lyle on the early season White Sea Bass!!!



Thar's yellowtail out thar!

By Lou Rosales

It's been the summer that wouldn't end. Yellow tail into January!? Go gettun boys. Well Scott and I decided to look for some bugs a couple of weeks ago. So far my lobster season hasn't been too successful and for some reason, I haven't really been too motivated to dive bugs, but that's what we are doing so let's go!

The first spot we anchored at had great vis and the terrain looked great, but it was barren except for a few 3-4 inchers (total length!), not carapace! There were a lot of traps in the area and apparently they had been decimating the local bug population so we decided to move on to greener pastures.

Just a short distance down the island, we saw some rocks and cracks in the coast that really looked good, so we decided to give it a try even though there were just as many traps as there were at the last spot. In fact, we anchored up right between two lobster buoys and were surrounded by several more. At first, I thought this spot was going to be more of the same. Several 3-4 inchers were patrolling the area but nothing else until I saw one in a crack that looked like it might be legal. As I moved toward him, he took off swimming straight up. I was all set to chase him down when a wave came crashing over the rock at that very instant and the bug was swept away to safety in a sea of bubbles! Not going so good, but I told myself that the next one would be legal and he would be mine.

After that first little bit of disappointment, I was down looking under rocks and into holes and cracks when I looked up and saw a nice sized calico staring me down. He was almost motionless, for a good reason...there was a shaft through its head. Scott had been at it again! The fish was probably about 4 lbs but when Scott showed me the fish, it wasn't to brag about a nice fish but to point out an interesting lump or growth in the fish. We speculated for a few seconds about the growth and went back to business. (If you see Scott behaving strangely it might be the fish)



While Scott was stringing up his fish, I dove down and looked under a rock and saw a legal bug but then I saw something else...LEGS. I peeked in and there it was! I reached in and missed his knuckles but was able to grab his antennae and worked my way up to his knuckles, I shook him a bit and yanked him out! Easy as pie! That bug turned out to be 7.3 lbs. Not too bad for a daytime bug!

The next bug was a bit different...I was swimming along a shelf and saw a bug back a couple of feet between the back of the shelf and a vertical section that created a hole with a corner. I saw that I probably had to move fast so I did until my lobster bag caught on a rock and stopped me dead. No problem, I unhooked the net and moved forward and reached in but the bug had moved back around the corner. I reached back and tried to feel him with no success. What happened instead is that one of the holes on my weight belt broke and my weight belt slipped down past my butt! Now picture me backing out of this hole with my pants falling down and the heel of my fin hit a rock just right and knocked it off. I had to grab my fin and swim up...kicking with one leg one hand holding my belt and one holding my fin. Well, with a bit of help from Scott, I tightened my belt one more notch, put my fin back on and dove down looking for that bug. I really didn't expect to find him, but there he was all hunkered down on the opposite side of the rock that I was working. He didn't have any place to go and I was able to yank him out with two hands and he was mine!



It was a great day. The vis was beautiful, the day wasn't warm but it was sunny and we found a few excellent bugs. Scott got his usual limit including a couple of 7 lbs (the largest was 7.5 lbs) and I got three bugs for a total weight of 19.2lbs. Not bad!



Winter Wonderland

By John Hughes

Well, it seems our epic summer lengthened into a great late season winter. Just before Christmas I was enjoying some great West swell surf and realized how warm the water was and thought a trip to the island might be in order. I called up Zylstra and suckered him into a run telling him it was about time he put his new scuba certification into practice.

We had great conditions going over but got a late start and ended up getting there right before sunrise. We pulled 13 bugs in an hour and although it was work, you can never complain with those numbers. The first yellow spot we hit after sunrise we saw yellows right off the bat. I shot one and got absolutely mauled by a sea lion. Probably the most aggressive one I've ever dealt with and once on us, he never let us alone and we had to move. We hit another spot or two and then ended up in an area where we got into some more fish. They were all a nice grade somewhere between 12-20lbs. We couldn't believe we were getting yellows at Christmas.

We were burnt, but ended the day doing a tank dive as I told Paul he needed to get used to his gear and get comfortable. It was really entertaining watching him get all his stuff on. I think if I wasn't there helping him he would have thrown it overboard never to use again. We finally got in the water and although the area wasn't holding any bugs, had an enjoyable dive playing with all the huge walls of calicos we had. Excellent trip.

I hit the island a few more times that week and put the word out there was some fish at the island so the boys could capitalize. Nobody had been out there so nobody knew and it's always nice to get your buddies on some unexpected yellow gold in winter. I ended up shooting 6 fish that week, most in the 20lb range. Got some more bugs and enjoyed the empty island conditions. It was epic.

Just after the new year, we had a week of super calm no wind no swell conditions and my skin was crawling for SBI. I lined it up with another friend to do a multi day to land of the giants. We pulled all our strings to make it out there the last day of the good conditions and had an incredible trip. We only got one day before it got trashed but came home early with a healthy fish bag and bugs and had mirror glass conditions going there and coming back. The conditions on the pelagic spots were all backwards and I only saw one 3lb yellow the whole trip. My buddy went on a rampage on the big goats and I even shot one which is the first one I've shot in around 10 years.



I hate sheepshead but my buddy had a big Korean BBQ coming up and knew it wouldn't go to waste.

I ended up diving the spot Rick died at last year and both my buddy and I got shoved into the cave he was found at. Not a pleasant experience but I realized a little quicker than my friend and got out quick. His experience was different and he got pretty shook. It was easy to see how quick it can go sideways in certain situations and terrain. I pulled a few nice ones in shallow but had started out deep on tanks so the category is still open. One went 10.0 and the other 10.6. My bag was already jugged with the 10lbr and 5 others in there when I got the bigger model. Swimming back to the boat with that huge bag and a bigger one on my chest was interesting. Fortunately, I saw my buddy in route and he got on the boat first and helped me out.



I usually let my bugs over 7 or 8lbs go as I think they deserve to live it out at that point and there's nothing out there that is going to choke down a 10lb bug except me. A 10lb bug is an impressive animal. I let the 10lbr go into my buddies bag for his BBQ and so he could trip out his kids. The other one I let go to keep Rick company. It was a beautiful morning and I got to sit

and think about life and our brother who we lost and pray a little bit. Personally, I'm thankful for the time I got to have with Rick and am still feeling the loss. My buddy and I had another epic Korean meal before heading home in glass and it was another successful run to land of the giants.

I hope you guys are getting out there and enjoying some of the extended summer we are having. I know as of today in late January there's still some yellows coming up locally and at the island.

Get out there and get some!



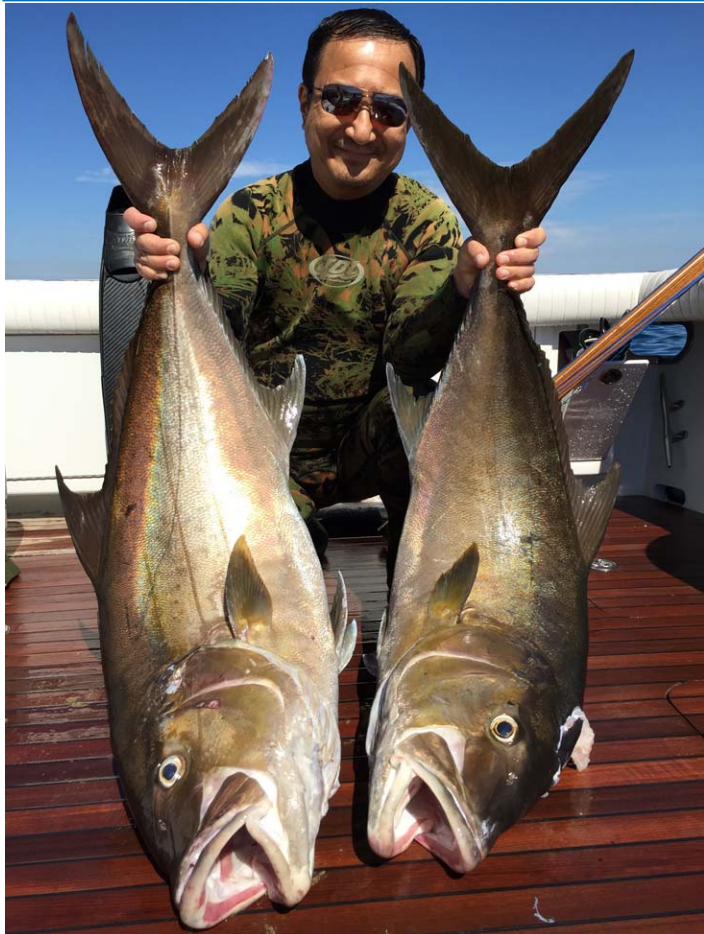
Gratuitous and Awesome Neptune Photos

Mori, Mike DeGiosa and Doug Ulmer head to Mexico...



More Gratuitous and Awesome Neptune Photos

Mori, Mike DeGiosa and Doug Ulmer head to Mexico... Continued



More Gratuitous and Awesome Neptune Photos



Nice Calico Derby Contender Keith!



Neptunes Classifieds

For Sale by: Hobie Ladd

- 1). Rob Allen 120—\$100
- 2). Picasso 100- \$100

Talk to Hobie

For Sale by: Mark Navas

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

Dive safe,

Mark Navas




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Apparel and Accessories

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www.lytlescreenprinting.com

Signs of an Early Spring?



I have never been one to be particularly in tune with variations of one season to the next, but after the summer/fall season that seemed to just keep going I have found myself giving it more thought than usual. I'm no meteorologist, but in some ways it seems like we just might have skipped winter. It was the first thing that I thought about when hearing about Lyle's white sea bass. And today (2/1) as I am working on the newsletter, my son runs into the house to tell me that the ducks are hatching. The ducks that I keep have never struck me as overly intelligent animals, but it makes me wonder where they are taking their cues from to get started on the business of launching offspring so much earlier than normal. I wonder what that might mean to all of us whose lives seem to revolve around the finding of crea-

tures that follow a natural cycle and not the annual calendar like us civilized (and disconnected from nature) creatures. It makes me more aware of a world that I understand so little about, where migrations for feeding, breeding, and survival take place with near absolute reliability by animals that seem to have all reflex and no reason. It makes me want to understand it more.

I would like to thank all of the contributors to this edition of the Trident: Phil for the historical piece on Dottie, Lou and John for the great trip reports, Lyle and Mori and Keith for the trip photos, and Terry for the amazing underwater photos.

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

Best Regards,

Todd Farquhar, Newsletter Editor

