



February 2018

# TRIDENT



## What's inside?

I haven't been getting in the water much but I hope the rest of you have been getting some quality time finding lobster, halibut and searching for that early season ghost.

At least a few of our members have been spending a little time abroad. Hobie, Josh and Yu all wrote about their travels while Todd documented his hard work on his amazing renovation of EfishenSea.

I wasn't planning for this issue to be as long as it turned out but I got so much excellent material from the members that I couldn't make it any shorter. I really believe you will enjoy reading it.

Dive safe and have fun.

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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 2017:**

2017 Calico Derby – Scott de Firmian; 9.5 lbs  
Bluefin Tuna (Ca) – Mark Navas; 40.0 lbs  
Lobster – Dave Freeman 11.7 lbs  
White Sea Bass – Mike La Riva; 69.05 lbs  
Halibut – Hobie Ladd; 16.6 lbs  
Calico Bass – Scott de Firmian; 9.5 lbs  
Yellowtail– Jeff Benedict 36.9 lbs  
Kent McIntrye– Joe Prola (Total weight: 78.7 lbs  
WSB 46.7 lbs YT 32 lbs  
Bonito – Robert Strobach 7.2 lbs  
Reef Fish (out of country) – Open  
Pelagic (out of country) – Hobie Ladd; Rooster  
Fish 30.9 lbs

## **Fish Standings 2018:**

2018 Calico Derby – Open  
Tuna (Ca) – Open  
Lobster – Open  
White Sea Bass – Open  
Halibut – Open  
Calico Bass – Open  
Yellowtail– Open  
Kent McIntrye– Open  
Reef Fish (out of country) – Open  
Pelagic (out of country) – Mike DiGiosa: Rooster  
Fish 41.325 lbs



# February President's Message:

So it seems the doldrums of winter exist only elsewhere this year. The 80's have been pretty normal for us in the last couple months. Amazing So Cal conditions. The bugs are being bagged by the brave and many of us are getting out there, putting ourselves in the ready position for the White Seabass action soon to come on strong. Some Neptunes, like the mighty Lyle Davis, are already on the board. Whether your year ahead is oriented toward just tapping in to the local bounty or adding an adventure - to Mexico, Panama, the South Pacific or beyond, I hope it will be a safe and happy time for you. That's what it's all about, enjoying this sport we love, developing memories of a lifetime, sharing it all with your family and those you love. As we go forward in 2018, we have some cool things in store. At our February meeting, Seamus Callaghan will offer a serious and poignant presentation, to help us understand what the Shallow Water Blackout is, & how to prevent it in your life. It is real, it continues taking those who do what we do. Some of us know the tragedy all too well. Please come to this meeting, bring your friends & divers you care about. As for our awards banquet on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, it will be an event that no Neptune should miss. A special presentation is being planned that will be one of the milestone events in the entire world wide history of the sport of spearfishing. This will be further and formally announced at and after our February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 club meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Enjoy the times!

Long Life Ahead

Todd Norell

## New Trident Hyperlinks

Each year we depend upon donations from various sponsors who we feature in the newsletter. Please visit them first. Clicking on their logos will take you directly to their website.

In addition to the sponsors, hyperlinks have been added to the dfw pages for regulations, licenses and other announcements. Clicking on the headline above the "Club Announcements and Calendar" page or on the link in the body will take you to the Neptune 2018 calendar which has been shared to all members. All you need is a gmail account.





# Club Announcements & Calendar:

**February 7, Club Meeting:** Artwork for BWM t-shirts due. Please submit artwork and suggestions for vendors asap..

**February 7, Shallow Water Blackout Presentation:** Seaumus Callaghan will do a presentation on Shallow water blackout at the February meeting.

**March 7, Club Dues:** Club dues are \$50. Please pay by March meeting. After March meeting the cost is \$75. [Payments can be made by clicking here](#)

**March 7, Awards Banquet:** 2017 awards.

**April 4, Annual Neptune Auction:** Annual Neptune Auction. This year we will be trying to re-incorporate some of what made the auction special to begin with. We are asking that members donate gear that they no longer need. Gear should be usable and in good condition. Make some room in your garage and help your club at the same time.

**June 2, Blue Water Meet:** Annual Neptune Blue Water meet. Clear the date!

**August 9, Family Campout:** Annual Neptune Family and Friends Campout is scheduled for Aug 9-12. For information contact Louis Rosales  
[long.beach.neptune@gmail.com](mailto:long.beach.neptune@gmail.com)

**October 13, Fall Classic:** Annual Neptune Fall Classic.

**December 7, Christmas Dinner:** The annual Neptune Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Friday December 7. We are still considering venues. Please make suggestions if you know of a restaurant that would be a good fit for the club.

For a complete listing of Neptune dates click on [2018 Neptune Calendar:](#)

## **2018 Abalone Season Closed!**

As many of you already know, the 2018 Abalone season has been closed. The California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to close the season due to concerns about declining abalone populations. They cited evidence of mass starvation and mortality among red abalone over the past several years. A decline in Kelp growth, combined with a rise in purple sea urchins has been blamed for the decline. [For more information click here](#)

## **2018 DFW Dates to remember**

The DFW has published the new Sport Fishing Regulations for the seasons. Download the regs by [clicking here](#)

### **2018 Fishing License:**

If you still don't have a 2018 fishing license, it can be purchased at many sporting goods and hunting stores as well as online at the Ca DFW website. [Click here for DFW website](#)

### **White Seabass:**

The limit changes to one per person between March 15 and June 15.

### **Spiny Lobster:**

Last Day March 21. Remember to turn in your report card by April 30. Report cards can also be submitted online. [Submit report cards here](#)

First Day of 2018-19 season Saturday, September 29 at 0600.

Last Day of 2018-19 season Wednesday, March 20, 2019.



Every time we enter the water there are risks, sharks, boats, entanglement but, by far, the most important, preventable danger is shallow water blackout. At the February meeting we will be fortunate to have Seamus Callaghan speak to us about the dangers of shallow water blackout, what causes it and how we can prevent it.

If you only attend one meeting this year, this is the one to attend.

Me & Eds Pizza  
4115 Paramount Blvd.  
Lakewood, CA 90712

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

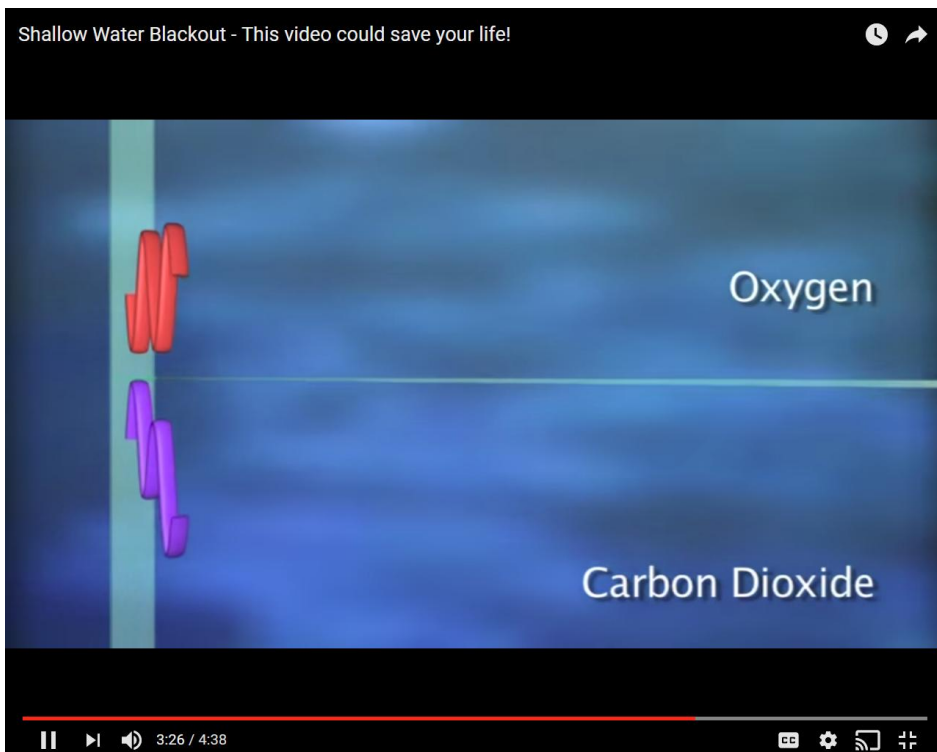
A Power Point Safety Presentation starring

Mr. Seamus Callaghan

**PREVENTING**

**SHALLOW WATER BLACKOUT**

This may be the most important meeting you ever attend. The tragedy of SWB is real. Take it seriously, understand what it is, educate yourself to avoid it. Hope to see you there.



# Starting over

## Steve Alexander

In the midst of all the record breaking California wildfires and strong Santa Ana winds, Steve Alexander lost his house to fire. The strong Santa Ana winds blew apart the awning that covers his patio and wrapped around a sodium vapor light and caught fire. The fire quickly spread to his patio and soon his house was on fire. The fire spread so fast, that every attempt to turn off the fire with a water hose failed and the fire became uncontrollable. By the time the fire department arrived, all was lost. All the fish mounts, most of his insect collection, all his prototype spearguns and rifles that been handed down from his grandfather were gone. All the iconic items that Steve was known for were lost. In the midst of the ruins, was a

page out of Terry Maas's book "Blue Water Hunter". Ironically, it was a page describing his speargun handle and mechanisms. Also, among the ruins were Alexander mechanism and tips, still in usable condition, which holds a testament to the quality and durability of Alexander's speargun parts.







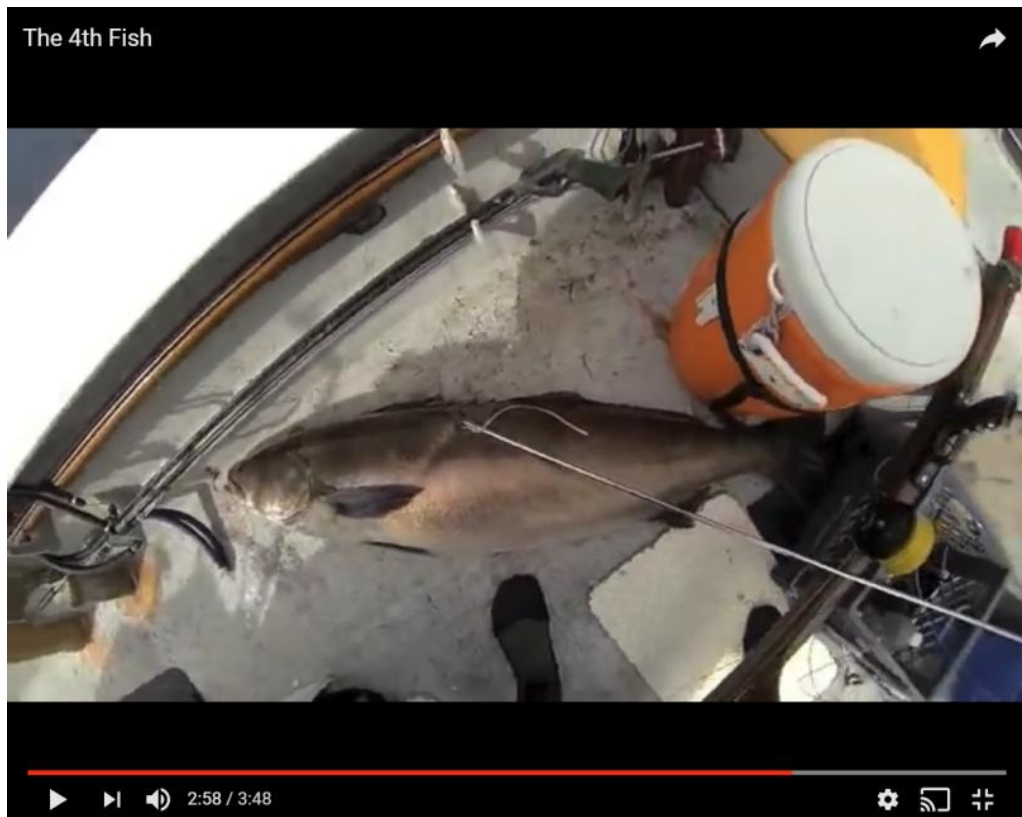
Despite losing all of his possessions, Steve appeared to be in good spirits. We presented Steve with a vintage 1999 Blue Water Meet shirt and a 2006 Fall Classic hat, which brought a smile to his face. The Neptunes put out a call for donations, and some Neptunes responded. Harry Ingram was able to get a washer/dryer, Nathan Yates donated a sofa, and Mori donated a queen sized bed. Steve is now in the long process to recovery. We all wish him well.



## Blast From the Past

Several years ago Scott and I started our spring break tradition. I have a week off for spring break so I started by renting a temporary slip for Olivia and Scott and I would dive as much as the weather allowed.

In 2013, the seabass were in and Scott took his gopro into the water for his fourth fish of the season. I hope you enjoy the video.





# The Boat Yard: A Labor of Love Todd Farquar

When you take on something that demands way more than you ever expected and makes no sense at all (to you and especially your loved ones) I guess all you can fall back on is calling it a “Labor of Love”. For me that was a 24’ Skipjack Open that I bought back in 2006;

She had been out of service for a couple of years due to engine problems and concerns about structural problems from dry rot. Anyone in their right mind would have taken the heap to the dump or unloaded it on some overly optimistic DIY junkie,

but not me. Maybe there were just too many good memories to let her go. So after 10 years and 1400 hours of faithful service from the old diesel, I decided to give her a top to bottom restoration.

Little did I know at the time of that decision that nearly every splinter of wood below the rub rail was rotted out. Most everything was useless other than a naked fiberglass tub and the cap that sat on top of it. I got started on the yearlong project in late 2016.



The restoration took me through:

- Tear Down: Pulled everything, cut out floor, bulkheads, stringers and most of transom
- Rebuild Hull: Repaired transom, new stringers and bulkheads, new floor structure
- Purchase of “Donor Boat” for Outdrive: Ended up with a Volvo 290 DuoProp, breaking even after stripping it and selling off what I didn’t need.
- Set up Below Deck Space: New Fuel tanks (200 gal), water tanks (30 gal), and insulated fish hold.
- Reconfigured Cuddy: Made into full bed, added shelves and supersized anchor locker.
- Made Pilot House and interior furniture
- Painted outside and gel coated inside
- Installed Outdrive and new V8 gas engine
- Rigged and Wired it all up



It was a fortunate turn of events that gave me the time to work on this project but with a new job on the horizon that window was closing quickly. With 6 weeks left I planned to give it a big push to finish the boat and hopefully get in one good trip.

Finally ready for the water last November, I took the family out on the first trip to Catalina for some hoop netting and to log engine break in time in. All systems go, a few tweaks and she is ready for action.

All that was left was that "One Good Trip" I was hoping (and praying) for. I lined up two good buddies for an SBI trip (Ivan and Bamz) and was blessed beyond expectation with two PB lobster and a yellowtail over 30.

So after a year of obsessive focus, lots of help and advice from

friends, countless hours, 95 gallons of resin, and more cash than I'll ever admit to my wife, I have my version of an ideal So Cal trailerable dive boat. Would I ever do it again...hell no!!!

It's good to be a Neptune!!!



Thanks to the suggestion of a good buddy (Woody) I posted my journey in the DIY section of SpearingForum. If you would like to see the whole thread and complete build, with tons of photos click on [the following link:](http://spearingforum.com/viewtopic.php?f=18&t=6227)



With Seabass season just around the corner, these photos by Terry Maas are particularly appropriate.

All photos come from his book *Blue Water Hunting and Freediving* . Most of you are aware of his book and many of you own it but if you haven't seen or read it, at least read the two chapters on safety and shallow water blackout. He has published both online and they can be accessed by clicking on these links: [Safety](#) and [Shallow water Blackout](#)



From the Book *Blue Water Hunting and Freediving* by Terry Maas.  
Schooling wsb in the kelp beds off San Nicholas Island.



From the Book Blue Water Hunting and Freediving by Terry Maas.  
What makes this so interesting is the nearly silver color wsb adopt while swimming in from sandy bottom.



From the Book Blue Water Hunting and Freediving by Terry Maas.  
WSB at Santa Barbara Island.

## Gonzaga Bay with Hobie!

A quick 3 day trip to Gonzaga bay at the end of last year with a couple spearos, Ben Levine and Gage Henkle resulted in some murky vis and not a lot of fish.

We started off with a quick shore dive which resulted in a few small cabrilla sightings and some technical difficulties with a brand new gun, we ended up with no fish.

Day 2 . A panga ride to the islands, still murky and still problems with my new gun. Ben told me "it's not the gun it's you!" So I put my new gun in the boat and grabbed my 110 Herranen with a big 11/32 shaft with a double flopper and proceeded to smash a few nice parrot fish...all head shots! "It was the gun!" It was so murky that the fish could sense us



coming and most of the time we just saw a shadow take off before we could



shoot! Most of the day was like that. On the way back we stopped at a high spot, our pangero said he was metering some yellowtail or mackerel so we jumped in. After about 5 minutes I made a drop and a big school came in on me. I thought it was a school of fat yellowtail in the murk then I realized they were rooster fish. Then one peeled off the school and came back to me to check me out and I blasted it, it was on my reel line took off and as I grabbed the line it started towing me pretty good. I yelled rooster!!! As i was towed past the wash rock. Then the line went straight down and kept pulling me



down. I was praying that it wouldn't rip out, I had no idea where I hit the fish as it flew past in the murk. It happened so fast! Finally I got a hold of the fish and got my hand in its gill as it started beating the crap out of me with its tail. The panga pulled up and I handed it to Miguel and he bled it in the boat. I was stoked my biggest rooster by far. Then Ben shot one too he must have hit the spine a little because his didn't put up much of a fight. All in all it was a fun trip even though we didn't get many good fish but pound for pound that rooster fish put up a fight that surpassed any 30 lb yellowtail I've ever shot.



We did 2 shore dives the 3rd day and no fish were shot! Got some good tacos in San Felipe on the way home!! Another Baja trip in the books!!!



The holidays: Spending time with the relatives, last minute shopping, crowds, family recipes. Yeah, no thanks.

All I want to do is get out of here and get on the water someplace new and exciting. Unfortunately, the wife had other ideas and now with a little kid in tow, it is a bit more complicated. "Hey wife, how about a family trip to New Zealand after we celebrate Christmas with your family?" Translation, Yu and I are going diving in NZ but you, the kid and (his girl) Jen can come too. We got the buy in from the spouses and started planning the trip early. With a buddy that recently moved back to the North Island and some other connections, we put together a 10 day itinerary that could pack in as much diving as possible with as little sightseeing as we could get away with. Everything was looking good heading into the trip until our friend had a family emergency and had to come back to the states. It was alright, he put us in touch with a few of his friends and we were all set.

Our first stop was a beach front vacation rental north of the Bay of Islands where we could do a little shore diving and hook up with one of the contacts for a trip. The place was amazing and the weather started out great so we knew the girls would be happy and we could go dive. The first dive showed us an underwater environment very similar to what we have here in SoCal. The structure, vegetation (minus giant kelp) and even most of the fish are just slightly different making it feel very familiar in the water. There was a large variety of reef fish out and about, lots of wrasses, their version of opaleye, their black garibaldi, etc. We figured if they weren't afraid of us they wouldn't taste good so we kept on looking.

One of our contacts, Andy, invited us out on his 6m aluminum sled with a 175hp Yamaha to dive Cape Brett for kingfish, what they call



yellowtail. These NZ guys are insane as you had to hold on for dear life as he sped out to the point and the boat pounded around the bay. Now I know Yu won't ever complain again about my whaler. Upon arrival, we were diving in massive schools of blue and pink maomao which are probably closest to our blue perch except edible. Schools of trevally would race across the surface with kawahai destroying bait and we knew it wasn't long before the rest would arrive. After taking a few of the above for sashimi, the boat traffic started to get really heavy. You wouldn't expect much for crowds but this trip was right in the middle of the NZ summer



holiday where everyone heads to the beach. We headed over to an adjacent reef and it wasn't long before we heard him shout, "Kingies". He had a decent fish that he was fighting, decent for him at about 50lbs but massive for us. Yu dove and got a shaft into his big brother who was circling below. Unfortunately, both of these monsters had other ideas and the unfortunate theme of the trip emerged, let the big ones go. We were able to stick a few smaller yellows that were holding down on the reef at about 20m. These fish had massive heads but looked like they hadn't eaten in months, almost snakes. One of the guys told us later that they likely all recently spawned.

Andy is a great guy to dive with but his real passion is what they call snapper snooping. The NZ snapper is one of their best eating fish and probably their number one target and they know it. The fish are seemingly everywhere but mostly what you see is a silver flash bolting away from you in the distance. Our instructions were to stay shallow and work the rock ledges by crawling up the face and peaking over edges into the gullies beneath. If you moved slowly and took your time, more often than not, there would be a



snapper or two waiting below. Now, you just had to get a shot in them before they spook. On this afternoon, Yu and I started getting the hang of it and were pretty excited when we got back to the boat with our baby snapper. They call them pannies and in order to not insult you, you get the good eating size comment we've all heard. We ask Andy how he did and he said he did okay and got a couple. Of course the biggest was just about 18lbs which is a hell of a nice fish considering the record is only 30.



This was the last day we were going to get to dive for a while. The weather started turning on us on about day 4 and we retreated inland to go see hobbits and glowworms and waterfalls to keep the rest of the family happy. Our next location was a remote beach cabin up near the tip of the Coromandel. We knew the weather was tough but we thought it was best to head out and take a look anyway. The air raid sirens in the parking lot of the local supermarket should have clued us in but we continued on the 2 hour gravel road to our place. The weather was getting really bad with winds gusting over 50mph and flooding starting in the beachfront areas. To top it off, the cabin was the opposite of our first place, as Trump would say, an absolute shithole. After some scrambling, we had no choice but to give up on 4 more days of planned diving and head back to Auckland to wait out the storm of the year.

Luckily, we were able to get one last dive in before heading home. One of the employees we met at the Wettle dive shop offered to take us out if the weather cleared enough. The day before we left we had a small window to head out to Great Barrier Island. The vis was tough after a week of torrential rain but there were snapper everywhere. We got a few fish and continuing the theme, wounded some slobbs including a brute kingy in less than 10 feet of water.

Overall, we got to dive about half what we hoped for and didn't land any of the big fish we saw. However, the trip worked out pretty good, I learned a lot and all I can do is think about getting back to redeem myself. The only tip I have for people headed that way is make sure to connect with people with boats. While there is more fish than back home, there are a lot of divers and



fishermen who hammer accessible shore diving spots just like here. You'll know it when you look under a rock ledge and see a ton of short lobster but not one legal. The people we connected were great offering to take us out when they could. And remember, a 6m boat is considered a "big" boat there.

Josh Wels

Yu Fukushima



# Neptune Family and Friends Campout



The beginning of the journey....

This year we are again having a Neptune Family and Friends campout. The trip is designed for Neptunes, their family and friends of Neptunes. The focus of the trip is camaraderie fun.



We will be camping August 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday-Sunday) at Little Harbor Campground on the backside of Catalina. Every year, some people sleep on their boats and some on land but the important thing is to get together and enjoy each



other's company. During the day, small groups will head out to dive different parts of the island, take hikes on the island or just enjoy the beach and swimming but every evening we get together for a meal. The evening meal is where we all get together and bond as a

group. The stories of the day fill the air, new friends are made, old friendships are reinforced and plans for the next day are made.

The last two years Jewelry has presented a wonderful art project for the kids and has agreed to do the same this year.



Jewelry's project was so popular that the kids didn't want to stop.







Nothing is quite as special as the first fish!

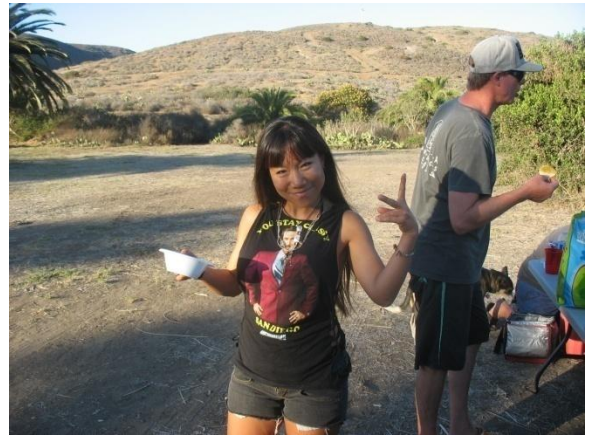




The Most Important part of the day!



. It is not necessary to have kids, just be sure to attend the evening meal and hang out.







# Wyatt

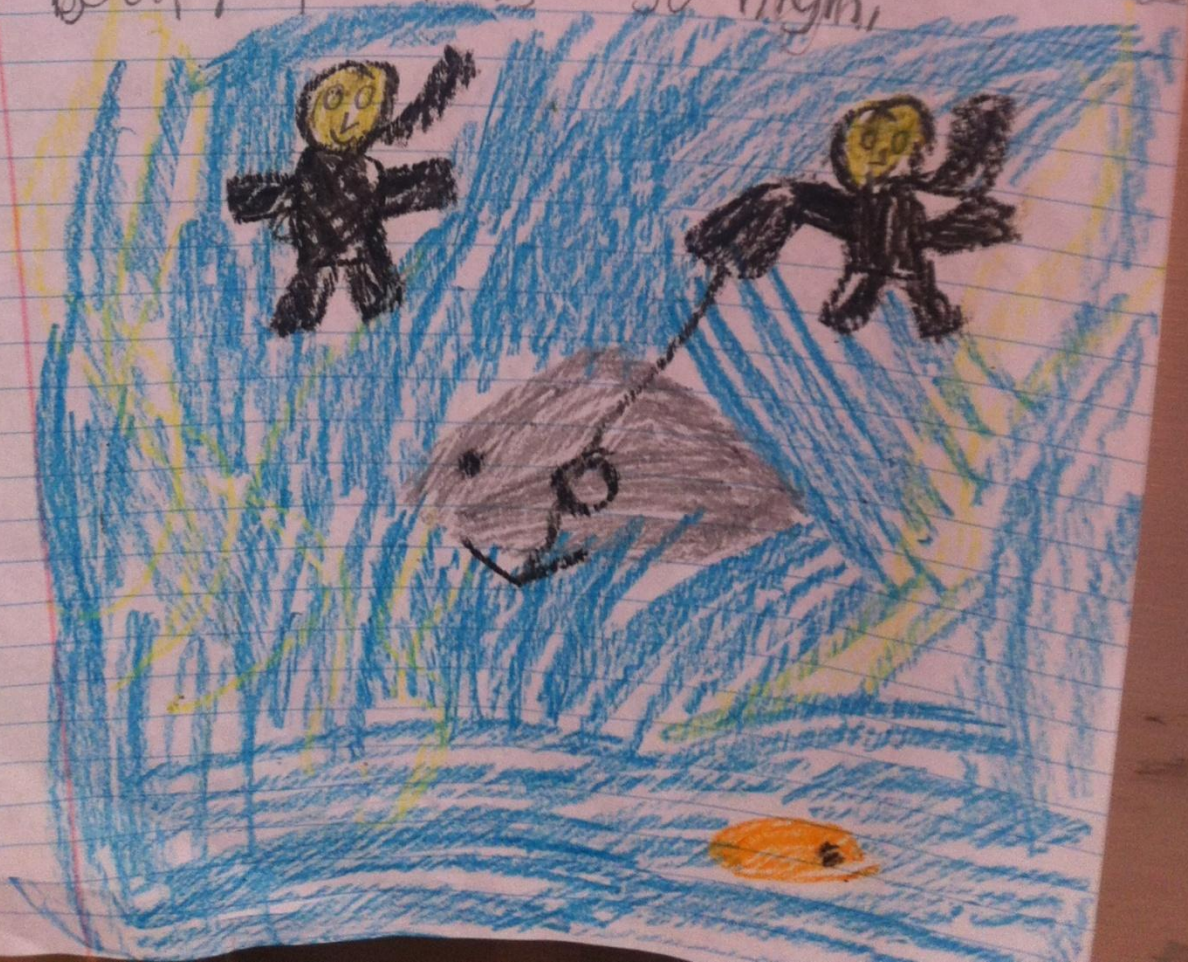


7-27-15

## My Weekend

My weekend was so cool,  
for the whole weekend I  
went to catalina, with my  
dad, I speard my first fish,  
I had so much fun.

P.S I jumped off my friends  
boat, it was so high.



## Special Neptune Campout Recipe:

Last year, due to various issues that caused me to fall behind and rushed in packing, I forgot several things.....including some food items. As a result, I had to improvise a bit at times. The following recipe is a Little Harbor tribute to the "The King of Rock and Roll".

Elvis Oatmeal:

The recipe started out as bacon and egg bagel sandwiches which is a favorite of my son and I but there was one small problem....no eggs! No matter, they say necessity is the mother of invention and we needed to eat.

We had:

Oatmeal

Bananas (1-2 per person)

Peanut butter (1-2 good size spoonfuls per person)

Bacon (1-3 strips per person)

Begin by browning the bacon (chopped into small pieces) in a small pot (or large pot if you are making a lot!)

When the bacon is browned drain most but not all of the fat and add bananas and fry briefly to carmelize before adding water. Add water and then oatmeal.

When Oatmeal is ready, add the peanut butter and stir.

Serve to your unsuspecting guests and wait for their response. Hopefully they will like it. (we liked it and I plan to make it again this year)

***morifish***





Near the end of December a good buddy from norcal, Matt Matison, came down to do some brown triangle diving. He brought his little inflatable and we went diving. I took him to a couple of my spots...we didn't find any legal halibut but I did end up with a 12.8 lb dinosaur and a 28 lb goat. The Brown triangle can be pretty good if you know where to look!

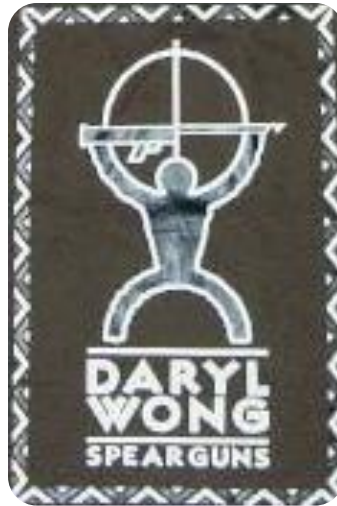
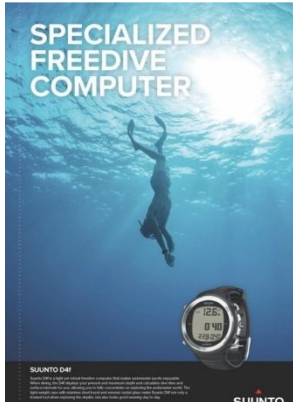
Hobie

**ATOMIC**  
AQUATICS





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As always I would like to send a special thanks to those that helped make this issue special. Terry Maas sent some amazing blue water photos...I've only published a few. You will have to wait for coming issues to see more. Hobie has come through again with some local photos and a story and photos of Gonzaga Bay. Todd for shared his amazing boat build, Josh and Yu went to New Zealand and their story and photos bring just a bit of the New Zealand summer to the northern hemisphere. We also got a glimpse into the Neptune brotherhood. Steve Alexander's misfortunes weren't ignored by members who rose to the occasion by donating a washer/dryer, sofa and bed. Thanks to Harry Ingram, Mori, Nate Yates for donating and making sure that Steve doesn't have to go it completely alone.

Next month we will have a few more photos from Terry's incredible collection of photos and hopefully we will have a few local adventures to mix in with the international flavor of this issue. If anyone has a recipe, photos or story please send it in so that it can be included in the next issue.

*Louis Rosales*

Long Beach Neptunes Newsletter Editor