



# THE TRIDENT



# CONTENTS

## 03 MESSAGE BOARD

News and Fish Competition wrap up for 2019

## 04 COMMANDER IN CHEIF

2020 President, Jeff Benedict, leads us into the New Year

## 06 A NEW ERA

This years Newsletter Editor provides insight for what we can expect as we move forward

## 07 DREAMING OF BAJA

Hughes reminisces of big fish and good company south of the border

## 11 FALLS FINEST

Bodjanac gets the skunk but there's fish on the deck

## 14 FEATURED DIVER

Life member shares his formative years

## 16 BEHIND THE LEGEND

Photos that you wish were never taken have finally resurfaced.



The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a non-profit organization.

The Trident is published monthly and is provided free of charge to members of The Long Beach Neptunes and Associates.

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#### Fish Competition 2019

##### California Awards

<b>Calico Derby</b>	<b>Kyle Brannon (Final)</b>	<b>7.5 lbs</b>
Calico Bass	Jeff Benedict	8.25 Lbs
White Seabass	John Hughes	61.1 Lbs
Yellowtail	Seamus Callaghan	40.0 Lbs
Halibut	Open	
Sheephead	Robert Strohbach	16.25 lbs
Bonito	Open	
Barracuda	Open	
Dorado	Open	
Wahoo	Open	
Bluefin Tuna	Jason Taylor	106.7 lbs
Marlin	Open	
Lobster	Hobie Ladd	12.1 lbs

##### Out of State/Country Awards

Yellow Fin Tuna	Masahiro Mori	45.6 lbs
Reef Fish (Gulf Grouper)	Dave Freeman	49.2 lbs
Pelagic (Sp. Mackerel)	Jason Taylor	33.0 lbs

##### Kent McIntyre Award

John Hughes 61.1 lb WSB + 27.8 lb YT = 88.9 lbs

##### Big Fish Perpetual Trophy

Jason Taylor 106.7 Lb Bluefin Tuna

#### 2020 Neptune's Calendar

01/01/20 Wed	Happy New Year!! (No Meeting)
02/05/20 Wed	Meeting
03/04/20 Wed	Meeting (Awards Banquet)
04/01/20 Wed	Meeting
05/06/20 Wed	Meeting
06/03/20 Wed	Meeting
06/13/20 Sat	Catalina Blue Water Meet
07/01/20 Wed	Meeting
08/05/20 Wed	Meeting
09/02/19 Wed	Meeting
10/03/20 Sat	Lobster Season Opener @ 6:00 am
10/07/20 Wed	Meeting
11/04/20 Wed	Meeting
12/02/20 Wed	Meeting
12/25/20 Fri	Merry Xmas

The board has decided to move the 2020 Blue Water Meet weigh-in from Buffalo Park to the front beach area. This move will increase cost to the club slightly, but we were able to budget this into our operational expenses. Arrangements are already being made. Date is Saturday June 13, 2020

There will **not** be a January meeting.

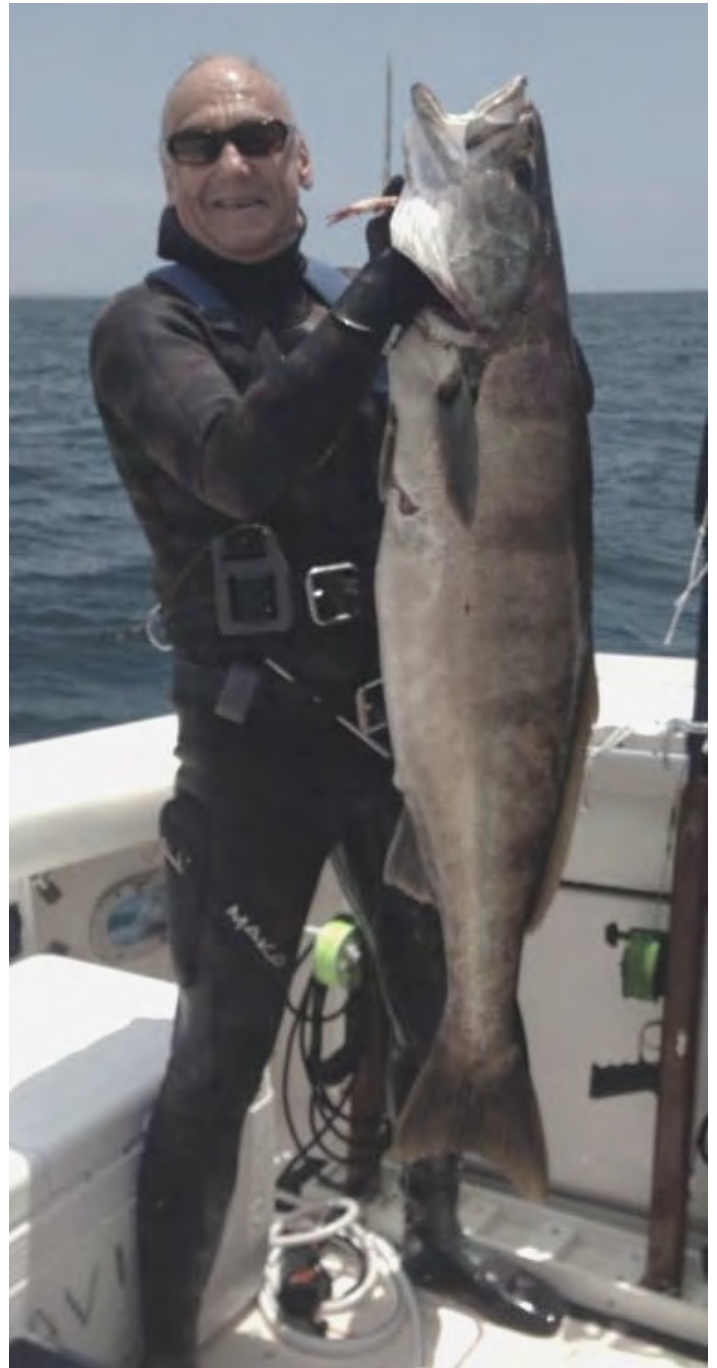
The first Wednesday falls on 1/1/20.

Happy New Year!!

# COMMANDER IN CHIEF

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR NEPTUNE BROTHERS AND SISTERS! I WANT TO THANK THE 2019 BOARD MEMBERS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND THE EXPERIENCE OF A NEW VENUE FOR CHRISTMAS. SO FAR THE FEED BACK HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE.

THEY'VE ALSO BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO LEAVE US FINANCIALLY SOUND HEADING INTO 2020. THE PAST AND PRESENT BOARD HAVE MET AND ARE EXCITED TO LEAN INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH SOME FRESH IDEAS. ERIC BODJANAC , OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR HAS KICKED IT OFF WITH A NEW PLAN TO INCENTIVIZE SUBMISSIONS VIA A RAFFLE. THE MORE STORIES YOU SUBMIT, THE MORE TIMES YOUR ENTERED. THE TIMES, DATES AND LOCATION FOR BOTH THE BLUE WATER MEET AND THE FALL CLASSIC ARE SET SO NO EXCUSES. ALSO, THE SLATE HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR THE 2020 FISH STANDINGS SO LETS GET AFTER IT!!





# A NEW ERA

*I'm thankful for the opportunity to contribute to our great club. It is a privilege to serve on the board and in a capacity that will reach not only our members but those that support us as well.*

*I want to take the time to thank Chase for the work he did last year. It's not an easy task to generate content each month and he did a great job.*

*I've been a Neptune since May 2018 and many of you have had a positive impact on my life, both personally and under water. Hopefully as time progresses I may get to know more of you and get some quality time together on the water. I've been diving since Fall 2009 and have loved every minute of it.*

*I don't think of myself as a very good writer but I'm up for the task and will do my best to provide quality content each month. As such I'll be mixing it up this year in many ways:*

- *It might be longer with less photos per page so aid in larger, better quality images.*
- *Hopefully there will be columns added where I might do interviews or people can share their thoughts and opinions on different matters.*
- *The style of the newsletter itself will change monthly. If you don't like this months design, wait until next months. If you you don't like that one, wait for the following months.*
- *To assist in generating content we are going to hold a raffle for those that contribute.*
  - *Every submission will earn the submitter (1) entry into a raffle. Example: if you submit two different fish stories and photos for "Behind the Legend" you will receive 3 entries for that month.*
  - *At the end of the year there will be a drawing for a prize, TBD.*
- *Some of you may know I am very light hearted and love a good laugh. We will be starting a column called "Behind the Legend". This is a place to post embarrassing pictures or stories of you OR your buddies, "then and now" photos of when you started diving and where you're at now (hopefully shooting more than just leopard sharks). This section is meant to be fun and easy going, not malicious.*
- *Thirdly, I updated Hobie's email and sent him a test email so we don't have to hear at every meeting that he never got the news letter.*

*Lastly, if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Sincerely,  
Eric Bodjanac  
2020 Long Beach Neptunes Newsletter Editor*





# DREAMING OF BAJA

WRITTEN BY JOHN HUGHES

Since it's winter and the first big swells just came through destroying the conditions, of course I'm dreaming of Baja. Around 10 years ago when we were both a lot younger and more handsome, I took the legendary Ron Warren down to a place I'd been crushing the yellows at for a few years. We left Pedro at 3am loaded up with all our dive gear and a leaky 12' aluminum skiff

headed down the Pacific Coast to the promise land. Arriving around dark 16 hours later Ron wasn't too impressed with the accommodations but for \$16 a night for the whole compound it was a steal. I told him to just watch out on the midnight bathroom runs as the cockroaches were as big as the yellows down there. The trip was everything you dream about. We switched it up between pangas and our skiff every day because we had to patch holes in our boat on a daily basis. LOL. Crushing 25-45lb yellows to the point of almost sinking the boat a few days. The locals were friends, off roading, snake charming, taking photos of big lobster that were everywhere, hot weather, good food and of course plenty of naps.

## "WE CRUSHED THE FISH EVERY DAY AND THE ADVENTURE WAS GRAND"

We got so tired of blowing up fish we decided to swing to the inside to cap the trip off on some new territory. We parked it up on the beach and slept outside it was so damned hot. Running our leaky skiff up and down the shoreline we stayed within a mile or so of land figuring if the boat sank we'd just grab our guns and swim. We had phenomenal conditions with vis up to 80'. There's almost nothing funner than diving Cabrilla when it's on. We were diving a location that I'd never dove before and it was just unreal. I had swam up current about 150 yards in front of the boat and was just in awe of the life there. Watching sea lions and sierra blow up a bait ball while diving the Cabrilla in the boulders underneath I was in heaven. At one point, I was on the bottom on the edge of a drop off with 30lbs of Cabrilla already on my stringer. I had a 12' Galapagos shark speed up the ledge and circle me in full attack mode three times before I could even get my gun on it. That was enough for me!



As I raced back to the skiff and jumped inside I saw Ron swimming up current right towards where I had been diving. "Ron! Ron! Ron! There's a big shark up there!!!" I screamed out at my buddy. Ron casually looks up as he continues swimming and yells back, " what kind?" I was a bit dumbfounded but replied, "The BIG F'ING KIND!!!!!" At that, he put his head back in the water and swam right up there in the zone. Hahaha! That trip was filled with memories like that but that's one magic moment I'll never forget. I could go on and on with stories from that trip but I'll let some photos tell the rest of the tale. So many things about Baja are not about the fish but about the adventure and I'm dying for some of that right now.







# FALLS FINEST

WRITTEN BY ERIC BODJANAC

Life's been taking its toll on me. A newborn, three other young kids, a house remodel, and general ups and downs have left me with little time for myself. I try to stay positive and live in the moment because before I know it my kids will be grown and I'll be wondering where the time went.

A photograph showing the wake of a boat on a blue lake. The water is dark blue, and the wake is a lighter, foamy white. In the background, there are dark, hazy mountains under a clear sky.

*Still...*

It's important to make time for yourself- recuperate. I took the advantage of a weather window and set out for the island. I tend to forget how much I love fall weather and the diving it offers. The first stop provided us with 60+ foot vis and the water couldn't have been more tranquil. With word of yellows being around we quickly forgot about bugs and reefies. Sure enough we had a few sighting down deep but as quickly as they came they were gone. This proved to be the theme throughout the day until John swam up to a some yellows schooling on the surface. One fish peeled off and swam straight at him. Without hesitating John turned him into a unicorn. We made a few more stops where we saw a few more fish but the good vis made them wary of us. With a November yellow in the bag we considered it a success and simply enjoyed the day warm, sunny, windless day.

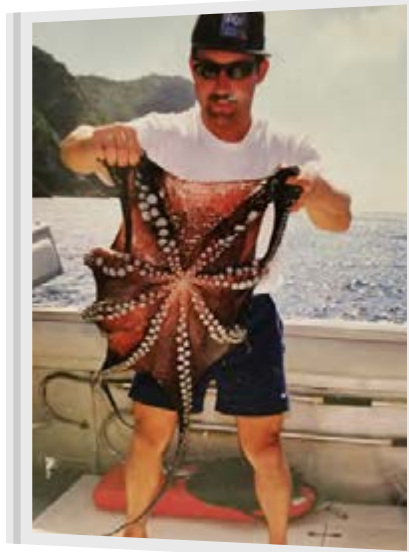


J. Eggers, 22 lb November Yellowtail



# FEATURED DIVER

Robert Strohbach



I started diving when I was 12 years old when I lived in San Pedro. We would dive the LA Breakwall and ride our bikes out to Palos Verde for big adventures! I started spear fishing with a home made sling and shot a lot of reef fish at the breakwall and PV. I moved to Italy in 1973 since my father was in the Army. My parents rented a house right across the street from the ocean which gave me plenty of dive time. I got scuba certified in Italy when I was 15 years old. I finally moved back to California in 1977 to start college, I did a lot of spear fishing at PV and south Orange County. I used a pneumatic speargun (Mares) that I bought in Italy. When I started Chiropractic college in 1984, I met Kent McIntyre who introduced me to Jay Riffe. It wasn't long before Kent and I started to attend Neptune meetings and were both tentative (Jay was our sponsor). Kent and I were voted into the Neptunes in 1985. I had the pleasure of diving with a lot of older Neptunes that unfortunately are no longer with us. They showed me a lot of the dives spots and shared their techniques for getting fish, I am forever thankful.

I was secretary for the club at one point, served as president in 2006, and was VP in 2007. I received my King Neptune in 1995, won the Blue Water Meet in 2006 and 2009 and was awarded biggest in country fish 3 times. I became a life member in 2017.

I have a lot of great memories diving Mexico, New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu, Hawaii, Panama, Hawaii, Italy, and of course my favorite place- California!

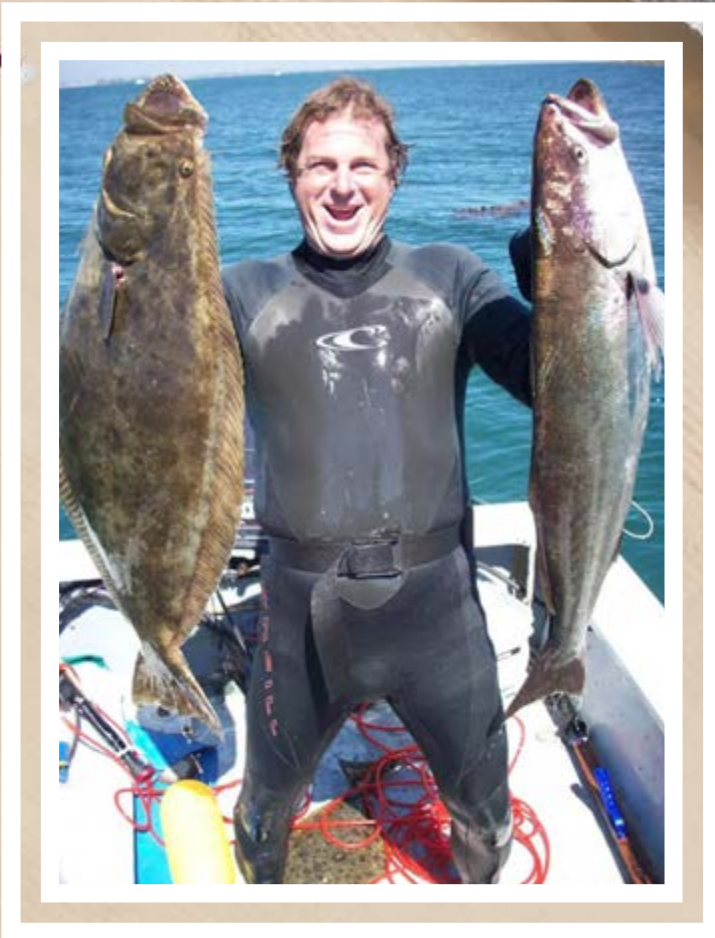
# FEATURED DIVER - ROBERT STROHBACH



BEHIND

# THE LEGEND

The Long Beach Neptunes are an extraordinary group of divers, fabled to have conquered the Seven Seas. But who are these kooky divers when no one is watching?

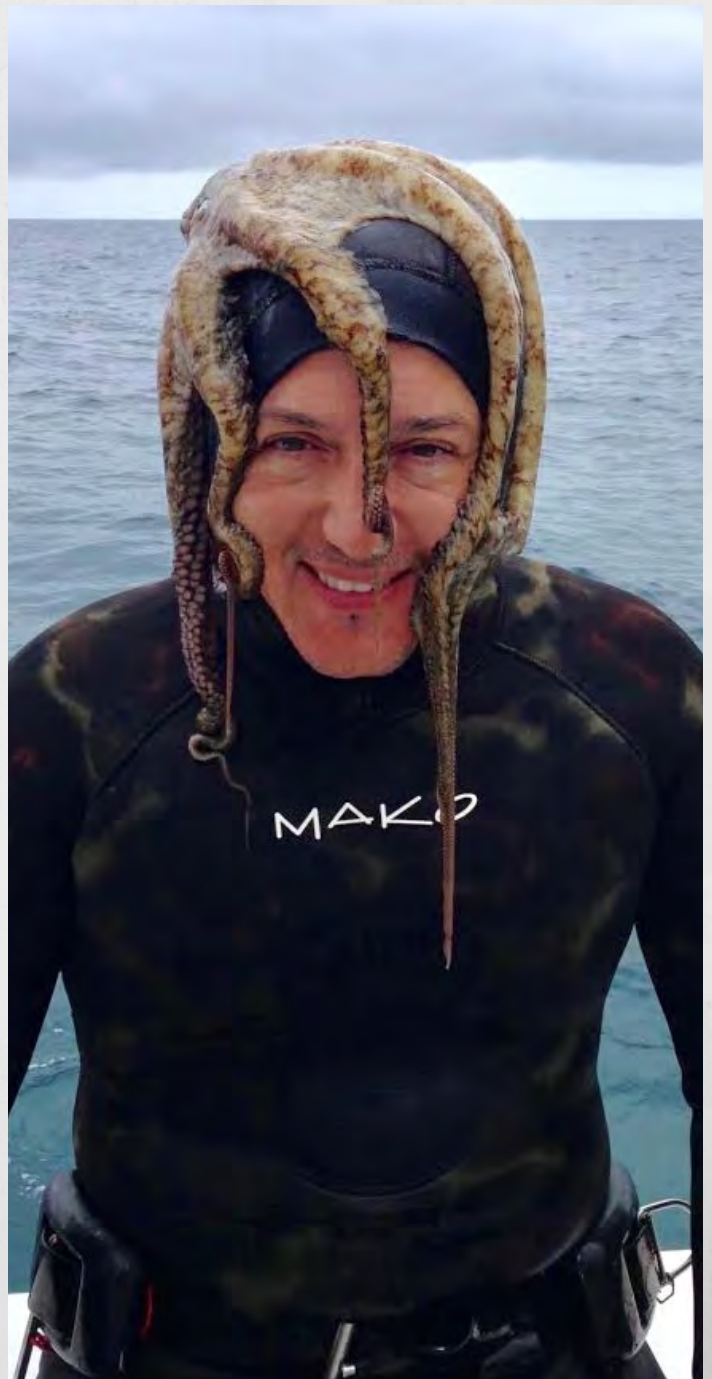


Left and top right- Contrary to popular belief Hobie shoots other fish besides halibut, no matter how small they are. Bottom right- Woody before he discovered bug diving. Look at the stoke!



# BEHIND THE LEGEND

Bottom left- Yours truly with a stringer of size large reefies, circa 2010. On the waist- lead is lead, right? Bottom right- Michael De Giosa with a full head of hair.



# BEHIND THE LEGEND



Above- The early days of John Hughes showcasing a beautiful specimen taken with his custom gun. Right- the "Pimp Daddy" of PV. Missing from the photo is 35 lbs of sandbass that was huffed up the hill.

# BEHIND THE LEGEND



Above- Mr. 2018 Big Fish of the Year, Daniel Keeler, kabobbing a reefmaster. How about that fillet knife on the hip? Right- Michael De Giosa taking a lunch break in between blasting some veal.



# The Long Beach Neptunes

WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

**ATOMIC  
AQUATICS**

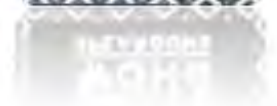


*Marlborough*

**HERRANEN**  
S P E A R G U N S



**PINOTNOIR**





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**"EVERY DAY IS A  
NEW DAY. IT IS  
BETTER TO BE  
LUCKY. BUT I  
WOULD RATHER BE  
EXACT. THEN WHEN  
LUCK COMES YOU  
ARE  
READY."— ERNEST  
HEMINGWAY, THE  
OLD MAN AND THE  
SEA**

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