



May January 2018

TRIDENT



Here we go again!

I'm back again for another round as your editor. I want to begin by thanking Dave Freeman for his hard work while serving as the editor of the Trident in 2017.

For those of you that may not know me, my name is Lou Rosales and I have been in the club now for several years. In that time I have been fortunate to meet and be associated with a great group of brothers and sisters. I originally started attending Neptune meetings with the idea of having a little fun hanging out with guys that shared the same passion for diving that I do. Maybe I would meet a new dive buddy or two but I didn't have any real desire to join a dive club.

It wasn't until I spent a little more time at meetings and got to know some of the members in the club that I began to really see the quality of this club and the values that the members live by. It was at that point I decided I wanted to be associated with the Neptunes. We have some of the top divers in the world in our club but that means nothing without character. It was the character of the club members that helped make my decision to join the club an easy one.

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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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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– Bill Peratt; 35.44 lbs
Kent McIntyre– Joe Prola (Total weight: 78.7 lbs
WSB 46.7 lbs YT 32 lbs
Reef Fish (out of country) – Open
Pelagic (out of country) – Hobie Ladd; Rooster
Fish 30.9 lbs
Sheephead – Hobie Ladd; 28.0 lbs



January President's Message:

Here we go Neptunes, another New Year of fun, adventure and friendship lies just ahead. For this moment, it is a blank slate. A year from now it will be filled-in with tales of glory, personal bests, images of our harvests, and smiles of satisfaction. The best hope that we can have is that we'll all be healthy and safe in 2018 and can make it one of the best years of our lives. Thank you again to all the Neptunes for supporting our club's activities in 2017. Our meetings, meets, gatherings and banquets are what maintains our bond as members of the most historic and prestigious spearfishing club in existence.

2017 was indeed a memorable year for many of us, some in good ways, some in not so good ways. Some of us shot personal best fish this year, and some of us saw things and experienced things we've never seen or experienced before. Some Neptunes that had their first child or grandchild this year, and some Neptunes began their married life. In March we celebrated our awards banquet and acknowledged the most amazing pair of in country and out of country Tuna ever acknowledged during a year in the illustrious history of the Long Beach Neptunes ~ Ron Warren's "local" 245 lb. Bluefin and Robert Strohbachs 210 lb. Panamanian Yellowfin. Also in March we honored Robert and Mori with Long Beach Neptunes Life Member Awards.

In April – it was auction time. The new Elks lodge venue was nice but the energy level waned just a bit compared to the old Me & Ed's auctions. In 2018, we'll back at Me & Ed's, and until then we encourage one and all to donate something, make something, beg or borrow something for your club – Robert will auction it off! We want to strongly rely on Donations for this year's Auction! Numerous Neptunes also went to Panama in April and all brought back amazing memories.

In June Bill Ernst came to the meeting and shared some tips on how he speared his famous 93.4 lb World Record White Seabass. Then came the bluewater meet! Fathomiers took the top three spots with our own Dave Freeman sneaking in for 4th with a 29.5 lb YT! Lots of really nice fish came in at the 2017 BWM.

In July we nearly lost our brother Byron, who suffered a Coronary Valve failure. His heroic story of survival and refusal to give up is a testament to the love of friends, family and his brother Neptunes. August and September brought some amazing summer diving with some of our best fish counts ever.

In October came the annual Fall Classic. The Habanero Kid – Todd Fahrquar won Champion of the Year honors with his 20.45 lb Yellowtail. We enjoyed the “new” venue at the isthmus in the pit behind the general store, since our old historic weigh in site has now been converted to a Yachties only venue with required attire being captains hat, blue blazer, pale yellow shorts and topsiders. The pit suits us much better, its kind of old school; all our 2018 events will be held there. Our two new full voting members of the Long Beach Neptunes joined us in November ~ Brian York and Yu Fukushima, and the 2018 Board was voted in.

A fantastic Christmas dinner topped off our year at the King Harbor Yacht Club. A festive time for all where we honored Ethan Smith, shared some stories, and savored the camaraderie that the Long Beach Neptunes are all about. Here’s to 2018 – great things ahead, see you at our January 3rd meeting!!

***“Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man” ~ Benjamin Franklin”
(1706-1790)***

~Long Life Ahead~
Todd Norell



Club Announcements and Calendar:

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

March 7, Club Dues: Club dues are now \$100. Please pay by March meeting. After March meeting the cost is \$125. [Payments can be made by clicking here](#)

April 4, Annual Neptune Auction: Annual Neptune Auction. This year we will be trying to 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 2, Family Campout: Annual Neptune Family and Friends Campout is tentatively scheduled for Aug 2-5. We are still waiting for the booking company to make campsites available. More information will follow.

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.

[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:

Don't forget to purchase your 2018 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.





My Plans for the Trident

The Trident will be a work in progress. I hope to develop a few regular features that I believe will be of interest to the members and I am asking for your help. We have a large number of creative and talented members in this club. Some cook and create wonderful dishes, we have gun builders, brew masters, master woodworkers, machinists and boat builders to name a few.

I am hoping that anyone with a special talent will submit a recipe, a short article with photos of a build or modification to gear or boats. Any modifications to boats and gear, in particular, may be of interest to our members. Don't think that any thing is too small and it doesn't matter if you did it or had someone else do the work, your idea may prove to be a godsend to others.

So, send in your recipes, gun builds, gear modifications or any article of special interest to our membership. Of course articles and photos about diving and shooting fish are welcome too! ☺ If you do send in photos, please say a few words about the photo. A few details like who was on the trip, it was the last fish of the day, it was the first fish after a long layoff with no diving etc are all things that give the photos more meaning and more enjoyable. For a perfect example of what I mean take a look at Chris Malloy's photos of the yellow tail he shot.

I have written a short article on a modification I recently made to my pilot house. I am going to call the boating section "The Marina". I hope you enjoy the first edition. I have a few special contributors lined up for future issues so be on the watch for some amazing stuff.

I have also included several hyperlinks to the dfw website, a google calendar of Neptune events that I have shared with all of you on the mailing list and there is a hyperlink that Ethan shared in his story about his trip to SCI. If anyone has suggestions please feel free to make them.

The Marina:

Boats are special to most of us in the club. Most everyone owns a boat, has owned a boat, has been on a boat or wants to own a boat. A boat isn't necessary for a diver but it expands the range of possibilities.

Unfortunately, most boats are not set up with diving in mind. They are set up for fishing, cruising or some combination. That means we must make our boats fit our needs. Combined with the almost constant maintenance required of a boat owner and most boat owners have a new project underway or planned.

This section is for owners to document and write about their modifications, builds and maintenance. Please send in a short little write-up documenting the work that you did or had done to make your boat better. There is a huge amount of skill and creativity in the club and your story and photos could inspire or give an idea to a fellow neptune that will help make his boat a better dive boat.

When I first got my boat, one of the first things I did was install a bow pulpit and sampson post. The bow pulpit was made with glassover ply and then built into the boat using glass. The original design worked but there was one main fault that I decided to address this fall. The problem with the original design is that it was too long. The length resulted in unnecessary stress on the bow pulpit due to the increased leverage. It never broke or seemed like it was near breaking but it would flex when under heavy load. In addition, the length of the bow pulpit made retrieving and managing the anchor somewhat difficult due to the distance away from the deck.

To reduce these issues I decided to shorten the bow pulpit by chopping off the end. This also allowed me to reposition the bow roller and the number of through bolts from 3 to 5 bolts.



This is a picture of my boat with the original bow pulpit.

Notice how far the anchor extends past the bow of the boat.

The first step was to chop off the end. It's always a little scary making big cuts into a boat but sometimes you just have to grit your teeth and do it. The nice thing about fiberglass is that it can be a pretty forgiving.

I set the skill saw so that I could cut two bevels making a trapezoidal shape that I felt could easily be shaped into a rounded shape.



The next step was to blend in the bevels and round off the end. For that I used a nasty looking tool I found at Harbor Freight. It is an attachment for an angle grinder that looks like something from Friday the 13th.



After rough shaping, it's time to do a little sanding and then glass it. It's not necessary to worry about fine sanding. A little more sanding to blend it in a bit more and make sure the surrounding fiber glass is roughed up and free of paint. (my original bow pulpit was white paint over white pigmented glass, that's



why it looks like I didn't remove all of the paint....it's actually white pigmented resin.)

When glassing be sure to remove all of the air bubbles. If any remain, cut them out when the glass is partially hardened and re-glass that area. The next step is to sand, drill all holes for mounting hardware (I drill an oversized hole first, fill it with resin filler and then re-drill) and prepare for paint!

It may be a bit difficult to see in the photo but the finished bow pulpit is significantly shorter and it works great!



Now, the only thing left is to take her out on the water! Here are a few photos of a spectacular sunset that my son and I were able to enjoy the day we re launched Olivia.



Cashing in Karma!

The hoped-for call came in Wednesday morning: We'd play hooky on Friday, dive that afternoon, Saturday and the morning Sunday. The weather was looking ideal and Mori and I had been planning a last trip prior to the kidney hot-swap surgeries scheduled for mid-October. The invitation was courtesy of Tom Chung and the destination was one of my favorite places on the planet. San Clemente Island, here we come! We had a flat crossing with wind no higher than 12 knots. Smooth sailing and a cruising speed of 20 knots. Looking good so far...

First dive was an uneventful stop at NW Harbor. Pretty but fishless. I was diving terribly the previous trip – a combo of little water time, gear tweaks and too much time at a desk – but now things were clicking, I felt great and my bottom time was good. Looking better...

Next was the 9-spot for yellows; I was the guinea pig. Viz was a hazy 25' and the current had the kelp pinned to the bottom. I thought "Hmmm... this is not going to last long" as I pumped towards the high spot. With no visual cues I swam until the snapping shrimp seemed loudest and dropped in. The bottom rose up and into focus at about 35 feet as I lowered my dive angle to cover some ground. Still heading down I saw movement to my left out of the corner of my eye and picked up a white sea bass cruising across the top of the stringers parallel to the bottom. It was not a huge fish but this late in the season I saw no reason to be picky. I shifted left for the perfect Hun-in-the-sun angle and put a shaft through his back from about 12 feet away. Now things were really looking up! The stink was off the boat and we had meat in the cooler. Mori weighed the fish at 28 pounds.

The weather and sea remained perfect so after a check inshore we continued around the backside with the goal of overnighting at Pyramid Cove. The afternoon was aging when we stopped mid-island to have a look around. Viz remained hazy but good and the yellow afternoon light lit the kelp like it was glowing from within. Beautiful. While I like to bang up yellow tail as least as much as the next guy, whites really fire me and between the morning's fish and the quality of the light I could not resist moving into the kelp despite the relatively poor late-season odds. I was mesmerized by the shadows and glowing olive and lime greens as I worked the reef: breathe up, down to 25', silent horizontal movement, head a-swivel, repeat. It was dreamy and I was completely satisfied just to be there and witness the grandeur. An hour into the dive my mind's eye and fortune were well-met when a lustrous silver shape moved nearly parallel to my path on a converging angle. The fish moved ahead, crossed behind a stringer 15' in front of me, emerged and showed his shoulder with a backward glance. I let fly, caught him behind the gills and started slipping up my floatline giving him as little way as I could. He wrapped just above a 30' bottom. I was surprised and completely stoked that such a good day in the water would end on such a high note. After clipping him off with my utility float I dug the fish out and headed back to the boat as the long shadows grew beneath me and the sky blazed with color above. Hot damn... another fish in the cooler! This one was 40 pounds.

Mori and Tom wanted to spend Saturday rock fishing so the next day was spent offshore working the depths with hook and line.



Sunday dawned a bit gray but flat. We headed out to the deeps off the east end for more rock fish first thing. I was enjoying myself (any day fishing...) but was getting itchy for a bit more water time before we headed home. My discomfort grew as the light filled and I started noting that the water was blue and the best we'd seen that weekend. Eventually, whether it was compassion, the desire for a change of pace or the fact that my tone was approaching that of a whine we headed inshore to have a look at Arch Reef. I was twitching like an addict as I watched the anchor line disappear thinking I could see at least 50' down. I had suited up on our way in and was not disappointed as I slipped in and swam out to the reef. Blue, clear, warm... the place screamed yellow tail! I reached the reef and could see nearly top to bottom and the place was loaded with calico's and bait. I swam to the up-current side and dove half a dozen times before I was breezed by the first fish – a single. It emerged from the blue to my left moving behind me. I swiveled right, thinking of roses, looking down and sneaking peeks under my upper eyelids. He cooperated with my ruse and gave me a 200 degree look-see pass. As soon as he moved to my front I had him, kicking hard to keep him out of the stringers. 30 pounds. Nice. I swam him back to the boat, let Tom and Mori know we were in the yellow tail business and headed back out while they suited up. We spent another hour and a half or so working the spot as the viz slowly dimmed. I shot two yellows and Tom and Mori each shot one, all in the 25-30 pound range. As we motored away I reflected how awesome it was to be back in the water with Mori especially at one of my favorite places and especially on such a fishy trip. Tom is a terrific host with a great boat and, then and now, I was grateful to have shared such a weekend.

I took some GoPro footage at Arch Reef which can be found here: <https://youtu.be/tcX8agLnank>. While perhaps short on production value (it was my first time each with a GoPro, iMovie and Youtube) you might enjoy it, especially if you like Guns and Roses.

Before I sign off I wanted to acknowledge and thank the membership for the terrific honors bestowed on me at this years Christmas Party. I am humbled and grateful for the recognition and kindness and am dazzled to join some august divers as a Life Member. Finally, a thanks to our president for handcrafting the awards. His sushi geta are amazing and real treasures!

Best of luck and fortune to all.

Ethan

Yu Fukushima and Brian York: Neptunes!



The Long Beach Neptunes proudly announce two new full members of the club. At the November meeting, Yu Fukushima and Brian York were unanimously voted in by the members in attendance.

Both Brian and Yu have served the club admirably and we look forward to having our new brothers continue to serve and participate in the club for years to come.





The Shark Tooth Legend -

According to natives of the remote South Pacific, when the seas poured from the heavens, the God Ohav-Lai (God of the seas) was challenged by the man-eating shark for supremacy of the oceanic domain. After an eons long battle encompassing the vast depths of the Pacific, Ohav-Lai rose from the sacred waters wearing a gleaming ancient shark tooth around his neck. From that mythical day, the natives of the Pacific have believed that the fossilized tooth of a man-eating shark will bring the Owner a long and prosperous life, free from any evil, especially that of the sea. These native divers will not enter the water without a sharks tooth as their companion.

Long Life Ahead

HERRANEN
s p e a r g u n s

Time on the Rock!



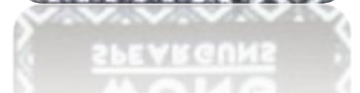
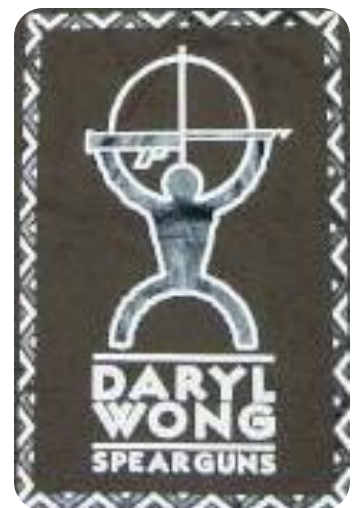
During an open window between Baseball games I grabbed my Gun and put the boat in the water with a friend. Smooth running over to the Rock with the offshore winds at our backs. Jumped in and within two minutes had a school of 5lbs chasing my flasher. Held off on them and about 20min later a solo fish came in for a look. He did not fare well against my 65" Hatch Amero. He drug me around a bit but came in pretty easy, which was good caus I got chased back to the boat by a sea Lion. Seems like that is getting worse and worse. Felt great to be in the water again. More to come now that Baseball Season is over!





Rebuilt 350,
cuddy redone,
fresh paint from
rub rail up, & new
electronics and
the coldest beer
in town!

That's how
SeaBastard rolls!

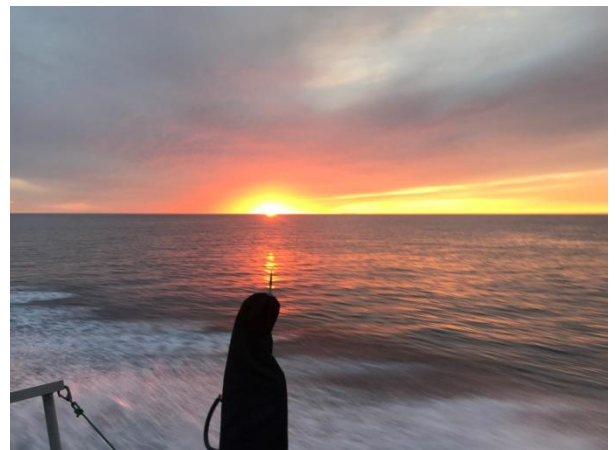
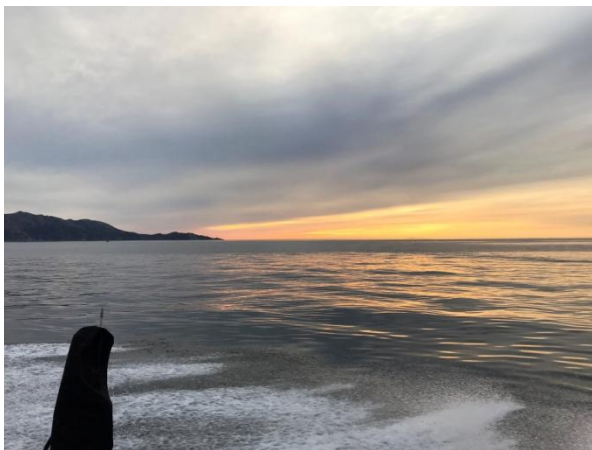


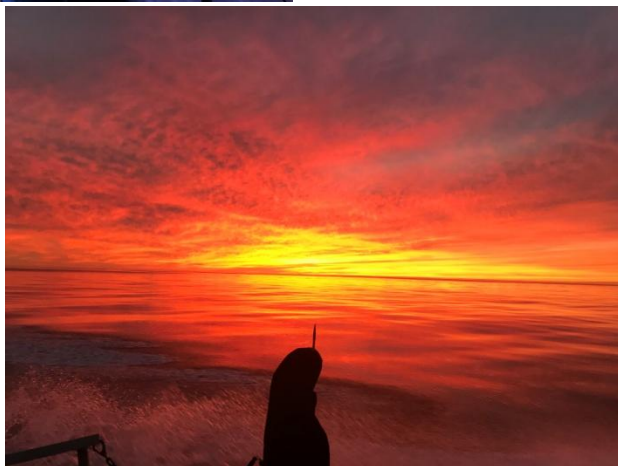
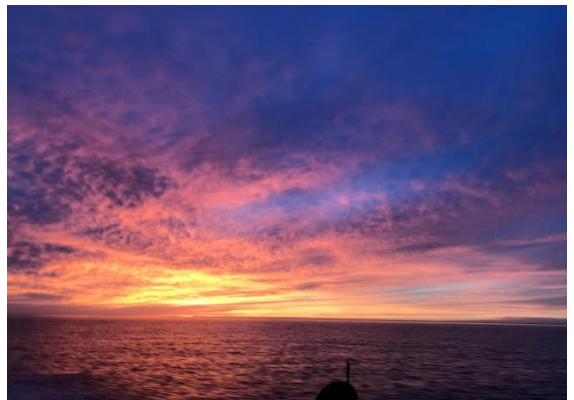
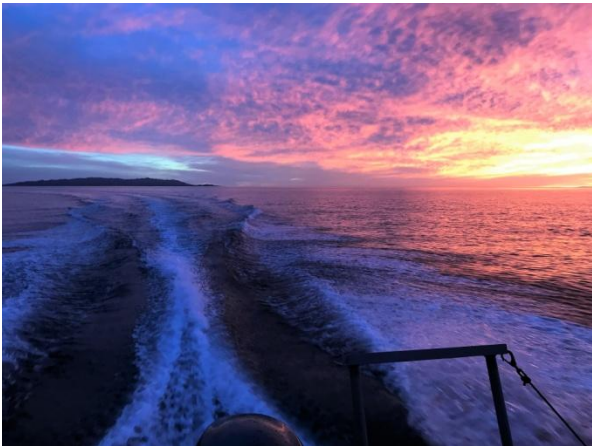
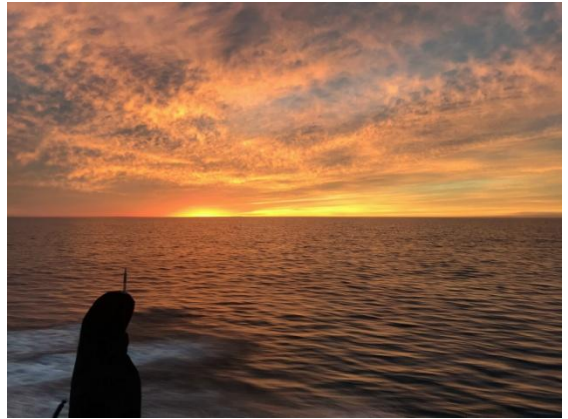


The following photos were all taken on the same day and are memorable because they serve as a reminder of how lucky we are to be able to enjoy wonders that others can only experience in their imaginations and also because it serves as a reminder that we always must remember that others are not so lucky.

The photos are unique in their beauty but much of that beauty is the result of wildfires that caused so much damage and sorrow to others.

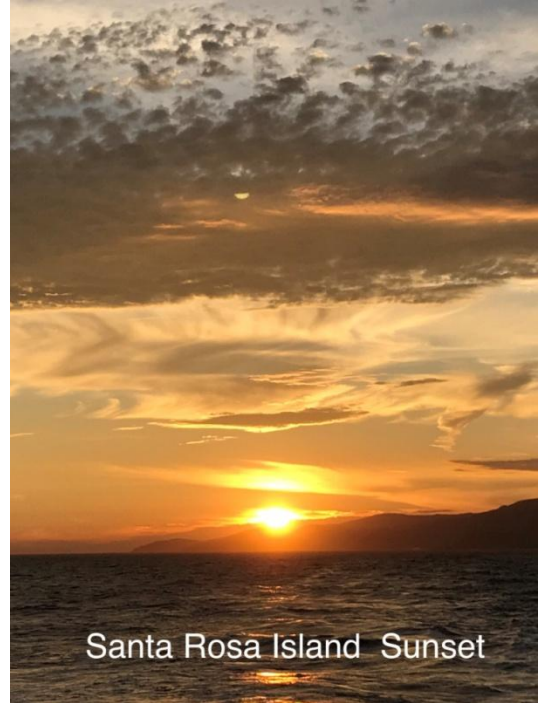
The first photo is On the ride home from Cat. The smoke and haze in the back ground caused Palos Verdes looked like an island. While the others were later as the sun began to set. Each passing moment revealed another, more beautiful and spectacular version of an amazing sunset with different textures and colors. Truly an experience I will never forget but it also made me feel strange because I knew at the same time others were choked in smoke while fighting the fires or waiting on news That would inform them if they still had a place to call home.







How did you spend Christmas eve? Ethan spent it bagging a gaggle of mallards. For Christmas dinner!





New addition to the Neptune family:

It's been a busy year this year with a pregnant wife, the passing of my dad and the normal madness of my end of year run at work. I'm glad to say I survived. I'm also really happy to report a new addition to the Neptune Family! True Reign Hughes was born November 16 and everybody is super healthy and happy. My wife and son EZ are especially stoked which is really nice to see. It's been a bit crazy with an additional newborn around but my house is full of joy.

After my dad passed in June, it got pretty crazy with work and extended family drama. Having a pregnant wife at home, it was time to tuck in and reshuffle my priorities a bit. I dropped off the grid for a while but it's just a season. I'm slowly getting back into the groove and even managed a nice little seabass right before christmas.



I've always loved how much of a family our club is and since I've had a few people checking in with my asking where I've been I thought I'd send a quick one out to the club and fill you in. I know my Neptune brothers will be happy for me as there's so many dad's in the club I look up to. I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and that 2018 will be an exceptional year for all!



PS:

Hey Woody, I still have your sweatshirt in the back of my car (as you can see). You better get that thing before I pile some more fish on it! Hahahaha!!

morifish



One of the many special days I have experienced happened on the way home about 7 nm off of Palos Verdes. There were 6-8 humpback whales, hundreds of birds and dolphins all over the place. They were feeding and we got to watch for 15 minutes or so. How lucky are we?

All that and a Seabass too!





Ethan Smith: "Mr Neptune" 2018 Long Beach Neptunes Life Member

As we read in the November Trident, most of us are aware of an amazing story of true generosity that stands on a level all its own, in the entire colorful history of the Long Beach Neptunes. As our friend and brother Mori's kidney condition worsened over a decade long period, he began to be uncertain of his outlook for life ahead. He was put on the National Kidney Transplant waiting list. The wait was estimated at 10 years. Too much time. In spite of his need, Mori never actively sought out a kidney, he never asked anyone, "hey pal can you spare a kidney". It became evident early that no one in his immediate family was in a position to help him. In came Ethan Smith, whom Mori sponsored into the Neptunes in 1996. Ethan just said "Mo we've got to do something about this". Although Ethan and Mori were not a match, with Ethan as his sponsor, Mori went to nearly the top of the list. On a day in October, Mori received a matching kidney from an anonymous donor. Stemming directly from Ethan's heroic decision a string of events occurred that day throughout the USA. Ethan's Kidney went to a girl in Wisconsin, interconnected by sponsors the chain of life continued **that day** to provide critical need kidneys to around 8 people. As Mori recovered, Pam and John Johnston took him into their home for nearly a month as he recovered and grew stronger every day. Another example of Neptunes brotherhood. The Long Beach Neptunes have an award that is only given to those responsible for tremendous acts of selflessness within the brotherhood of the club. The "**Mr. Neptune**" award has been given only twice in the last 25 years. The last to receive it were Dale Cote and Duane Smith – for commitment to the LBN that spanned 3 or 4 decades of participation and service. In Ethan's case, it's an award for heroism, generosity and singular bravery. He took the risk he did, for nothing in return. We know the complications he rode out after his surgery. I saw Ethan in the hospital a day or two after the procedure. He was having a really tough time, just as Mori was literally coming back to life and feeling better hour by hour. As Ethan told us at the Christmas Party, it is the most difficult physical challenge he has ever endured in life. But worth it. Ethan came to know the Neptunes in the mid 90's when he became a friend of Eric Schlobum. After being voted-in in 1996 Ethan served on the board and was active in a lot of club events over the years. At the November meeting it was decided by the club that we would honor Ethan with a 2018 Life Member Award ~ in acknowledgment of his meeting the required criteria and his gallant and selfless life altering decision which affected so many, and will never be forgotten. ~ TN



ATOMIC
AQUATICS



Happy New Year from the Harris Family!

Lyle shows how to end the year!

Some days you swim around all day in cold dirty water and all you get is cold but some days it pays off! December 30 2017 it paid off for Lyle!



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Before I start about what comes next I want to thank Ethan Smith, Chris Malloy and John Hughes for their stories, which were sent in after I sent out a desperate plea for help. Ivan Sanchez also sent in some photos to help out. He sent photos of three things dear to his heart: Sea Bastard, Beer and one of his guns.

As far as the Trident is concerned, what is next is what you and I make of it. I hope that people continue to send in submissions: photos with a short summary to give context, stories, recipes or other items of interest to Neptunes.

For the February issue, I have already received commitments for a travel article and a boat project, so there is plenty to look forward to. Hopefully others will send in photos or articles. As I said before, if you send in a photo, a sentence or paragraph about it can give it much more context and meaning. Maybe a recipe? Seafood recipes are great but they can be any favorite recipe. Did something special happen in your life? Share it with your fellow Neptunes.

Louis Rosales

Long Beach Neptunes Newsletter Editor