

The

TRIDENT

The official publication of the Long Beach Neptunes



July 2019

**Dragon Master
Howard Shaack
1928 - 2019**



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The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a Non-Prophet 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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2019 Neptune's Calendar

07/03/19 Wed Meeting
07/12 – 07/16 Neptunes Catalina Family Campout
 08/07/19 Wed Meeting
08/17/19 Sat 51st Fathomiers Scramble Meet
 09/04/19 Wed Meeting
 10/02/19 Wed Meeting
10/12/19 Sat Fall Classic
 11/06/19 Wed Meeting
11/30/19 Sat Xmas Dinner @ The Phoenix Klub
 12/04/19 Wed Meeting

Fish Competition 2019

California Awards

Calico Derby	Kyle Brannon (Final)	7.5 lbs
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	
Tuna	Open	
Marlin	Open	
Lobster	Open	

Out of State/Country Awards

Yellow Fin Tuna	Masahiro Mori	45.6 lbs
Reef Fish	Open	
Pelagic	Open	

Kent McIntyre Award

Open

Big Fish Perpetual Trophy

John Hughes	61.1 Lb White Seabass
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A Message from the President



Fellow Neptunes,

The 2019 Blue Water Meet is over and what a great time! Of course the most important thing is that all the divers returned to the beach safely. But only slightly less important is that the Neptunes swept the meet! First through fifth place all taken by Neptune brothers who had to dive hard on a day that few fish were landed. With 66 competitors from Southern California's premier dive clubs competing, there were only 5 fish weighed at the beach. Once again I would like to congratulate Todd Farquhar on a beautiful winning fish and a well-deserved first place!

This year we have had to battle poor weather and challenging diving conditions. I am very optimistic that the summer and fall will hold some excellent spearfishing opportunities. There have been some quality fish taken this month, and the big Bluefin Tuna are now well within the US borders.

The Neptunes Catalina Family Campout is coming up on July 12th. It's great time for kids and adults alike. Please contact Lou Rosales to sign up or if you have any questions about the details of the event.

I am happy to report that Jay Riffe is back home and doing well. He and Jackie are in good spirits and confident that Jay will make a full recovery. Thank you all for your visits, prayers and well wishes.

Our July meeting falls the day before Independence Day. The entertainment will include a slide show from the BWM, club announcements and a raffle. It will not run too late so that everyone can rest up for the holiday.

Dive Safe and Happy Independence Day!

Jeff

Reviving the Tri-Club Meet

According to the results of the online survey monkey that was sent to the general club, the majority of the people who responded favored reviving the Tri-Club meet, formally known as the Omer Nielsen Meet. The San Diego Freedivers has proposed hosting the meet in September. These are the proposed dates regarding the meet. If there are any suggestions, or comment regarding this meet, please contact President Jeff Bilhorn or Volker Hoehne of the San Diego Freedivers.

Location : Dana Point Landing

Proposed Date : Saturday September. 14, 2019

Weigh-In : 4:00 PM Sharp (Sunset is at 7 PM)

Format : One fish per person. Largest Fish wins individual, Top 3 fish of each club wins Team Club Competition

Cost : Small Entry fee to cover tacos and trophies TBD.

Festivities : No meet shirts or raffle being considered at this time.

Placements : First, Second, Third place awards, possibly Paper Awards to reduce cost

Volker Hoehne MBA 619-994-4175

Club Announcements..

- 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.
- The San Diego Freedivers are considering reviving the Tri-Club Meet, formally known as the "Omer Nielsen Meet". The recent poll given to the club thru Survey Monkey showed interest among some members. More details will be available as it progresses. Information is listed above.
- Family Campout date will be July 12-16th . For more information, contact Lou Rosales @ (310) 469-1639 or Mahtzo1@frontier.com
- Neptune hats with Embroidered Patch are now available. Cost is \$15 for Flex-Fit hats and \$10 for Trucker style Snap Back hats. Hats will be available at the July meeting. Full and Life Members only.

Double Day !!!

By: Juan Aguilar

I decided to test my luck a couple days after the Blue Water Meet. I hadn't seen any fish during the competition, and combined with cold green water, and chilly weather, my motivation level was dimly low. On top of all that, I hadn't landed a fish all year, and it was now June! I got a call from a good friend, Alex, wanting to come out for a day of spearing, and I promptly met him when he arrived.

Conditions had improved in the 72 hours since the Meet, with the visibility hovering around 40 feet or so. The kelp was mostly up when we got to the first spot of the day. A slight downhill current gave us hope. I swung the boat into position, and Alex flung the anchor into the water. We chatted briefly while donning our fins and joked about how bad this year's fishing had been.

Entering the water quietly, I began to make my way around the kelp bed. Things looked promising, baitfish darting about, barracuda milling around, and even a Giant Sea Bass made a couple cameos on my dives. I managed to pet the beast before it boomed off, leaving me in its wake. I was in the zone, diving stealthily and working the inside of the bed, as well as the leading edges. Unfortunately, no game fish were home, so Alex and I headed back to the boat, and were on our way to the second spot in no time.

We arrived, anchored, and hopped into spot number two without much fanfare. I worked my way up current until I reached the outer layer of blacksmith. There were thousands of the little fish, bunched up, shuddering away from something



in the big blue expanse in front of us. A couple sea lions were there to make things interesting.

While scanning the edge of the bait, a lone yellowtail materialized to my left. I dove quickly, aimed my new 58" Mike N. mid-handle, and put my Mori shaft and tip combo straight through the fish, with a nearly perfect shot placement behind the pectoral fin. I thought the fish was stoned, but it was only stunned. It came to life when I began the retrieval process. I let it hang for a bit, tiring itself out so it wouldn't kick my ass when I pulled it in. I eventually grabbed it by the gills and dispatched it. Swimming back to the boat, I hollered to Alex, "Single fish! Over there!" Off he went.

I put the fish in the hold, and began making my way back into the water, when Alex showed up on the starboard side of the boat. Holding a healthy-looking yellowtail, and brandishing a big smile, he exclaimed, "Big school of a hundred yellows!" My motivation level rose a couple pegs instantly. I hopped back in and made my way out to the zone. I didn't see any other fish out there, but the



bait was still spooky, and I knew it would only be a matter of time before the fish would appear again. Alex came over, and we traded guns so we could try each other's new weapon out. He passed me his 58" Wong hybrid, and we went our separate ways.

A few more moments passed, and I decided to try a little deeper drop, next to the rocks, to see if there were any White Seabass cruising the bottom. I took my final breath, and descended into the deep, leveling off just above the rocks, and hung there for a few seconds. Scanning around, some motion to my left caught my attention, and soon I was watching a massive school of yellowtail appearing from the murky waters below. I moved the Wong into position, and the school began to recede into the dark. I gave a quick croak, hoping to pique their interest. It worked. The school swam back around, and I aimed at the nearest fish, only five feet from my slip tip. I pulled the trigger, saw the shaft hit solidly, and began the ascent to the surface.

I knew it was a good shot, so I gave it plenty of pressure as I made my way back up. However, things were not going as quickly as I thought they should. This fish was pulling like mad. I looked down only to see the fish making lazy circles beneath me. How could this be? I know it is a big fish, but there's no way it's pulling on me this hard swimming like that. As I neared the surface, I realized that Alex didn't have a float on his line, and the float line was only 75 feet long. I could see the end of the line, only 10 feet away now. Luckily, it was a first generation JBL Seavine, so it had some stretch that gave me enough slack to break the surface. I screamed, "Fish on!!!" I was promptly dunked to five feet and had to fight my way back up again. By this time, I couldn't see the fish 50 feet below me, but I knew it was kicking my ass. Hand over hand, inch by inch, I pulled up the fish from the deep. I saw the fish was still making lazy circles, and was wondering what was going on, when I caught a flash of white below the fish. Oh crap. A sea lion must have my fish! I pulled even harder and gained more ground. As the fish neared, I caught another glimpse of white, but this time, the white had a yellow crescent behind it. No way.



I got the first fish in hand, and quickly put it out, all while still being dragged by the second fish 15 feet below me. Alex had seen the whole thing and was right there to lend assistance. I asked him to grab the second fish, and soon we were on the surface, laughing, hooting and hollering as we made our way back to the boat. I climbed into the boat, completely exhausted from the whole ordeal. Alex passed me the fish, immediately I knew it was going to be near my personal best. I bled both fish, but only gutted the smaller of the two. Alex tried to find one more fish before we headed out, to no avail. Oh well... I think we did alright.

We got back to my house to weigh and fillet. Alex's fish was his personal best of 29 pounds. The fish I aimed at was a personal best of 40.48, though I rounded it up to 41 since I bled it. The second bonus fish was 31 pounds, gutted and bled. That fish was plugged with sperm sacks when I gutted it, so I estimated it to be 34 pounds. 75 pounds of yellowtail on a single trigger pull, not a bad way to start the season.

Bahia De Los Angeles

By: Kyle Brannon



A couple of kooks got invited to head down to Bay of LA in May with our sponsors Paul and Byron on their annual trip down south. Obviously, Jon and I were stoked on the opportunity. We rented an incognito soccer mom mini-van and leaving at 4AM on a Saturday started the 10 hour drive south. With the road warrior Paul at the helm we made good time to Baja.

We got to the Bay in time to see the Orange County Spearos, who had arrived the day before unloading their haul from the day which for the uninitiated has an impressive sight. They had quite a few cabrilla, a couple yellowtail, and for some reason somebody had shot sheephead taking up



space in the cooler. The stories they were telling about the days hunt got us excited to get in the water the following day.

We woke up early, fired up to get out to the spot and start hunting. The first spot was relatively barren of fish with just a few Cabrilla seen. Having never hunted Cabrilla before it was a learning experience. I would push down as deep as I could go and hug the bottom, didn't see much of anything. Tried hunting Baja's version of kelp, saw lots of small Cabrilla but nothing worth shooting. I was seeing more hugging the edge of the kelp especially along rock outcroppings. After a lot of effort, we called it quits and headed to



another spot. Spot after spot it was more of the same but I felt like I was learning more and more about the elusive cabrilla. By the end of the day the fish count was pretty pathetic. Paul had 5 or 6 fish on board including one monster and the rest of us came up empty. We didn't just not find Cabrilla we didn't find any bait in the water that first day.

We went out the second day optimistic. We heard reports of large schools of bait further out and left early to find the action. After an hour boat ride, we found the birds crashing and knew we had



found the bait. Slipping into the water the bait was so thick it blocked out the sunlight when hunting along the bottom. Not long after a large head poked out from behind a rock, I lined up my shot and pulled the trigger. I stoned the cabria, hitting it just behind the eyes. Hitting the surface Jon said he had just gotten his first Cabrilla as well. For the rest of the day I hunted along the edge of the kelp and put about 7 more fish on the boat, the largest weighing 18lbs. The Cabrilla were so full of bait it was sticking out of their mouths. By the end of the day it was smiles all around. What a turn-around from the day before, we all had fish on the boat. To go along with his many Cabrilla Byron also put a nice yellowtail on ice.

The next morning, we were on the road at 3am heading home. Paul once again manned the wheel and would have made Mario Andretti proud getting passed the traffic. Spent a good part of the ride home talking about recipes and ways to prepare our catch. To cap it off the border crossing only took 30 minutes which is the fastest I have ever seen. What an amazing trip! I can't wait to get back down there.



Northern Chanel Islands

By: Eric Bodjnac

It's been a long year with little action. My seabass season was a rough one striking out all of April and May. During that time I had few sightings on fish under 5 lbs, it definitely took the wind out of my sail. June was disappointing as I had two boat trips get cancelled due to weather and friend's boat malfunction- I figured this was just going to be how 2019 was going to play out.

I finally had a weather window and assembled a good crew to hit the Northern Channel Islands for some combo seabass/yellow action. June is normally a good month for that and my hopes were high. We made it out of the harbor with more of a south swell and wind than I would have liked but it wasn't anything remarkable. At the first spot we were greeted with cold, green water. Not was we were anticipating Our first hour was a bust and decided to shoot the gap and look for seabass, except you need kelp for seabass- which

Cruz was lacking. Where we did find kelp the water was milky and washed out. Well we kept going west and the water got warmer and cleaner. The next few spots did not yield anything save for good views and some well-received trash talking. We passed Gull Island (RIP) and made our most westward stop with Rosa in view tempting us. The water here was 63 and void of life so we pulled anchor and B-lined it for our final stop of the day.



The tide was right and the current had picked up. Soon enough Malibu John had connected on a quality model and make quick work of a beautiful Anacapa yellow. Shortly there after I made a drop to see a single on the outside of viz. I was able to call it in but it quickly turned away. Thinking to myself that I'm not going to let the only fish I've seen all day get away I sent it with half of the fish out of visibility. My line went tight and we were on. A couple minutes later I had my first fish of the year on the deck and I left the monkey on my back in the water.

I'm looking forward to getting a few more trips in before my wife pulls the plug and baby 4 comes into the world.



Half Dozen, Does it Again!

By: Steve Parkford

So, another amazing day on Half Dozen with Lyle and Jeff and new kid to me, Mike.

Backside, cove to cove search for WSB.

Hit Farnsworth just a couple of hours after a GWS was spotted.

We had no idea.

Got lucky (rather be lucky than good) and saw a school and took closest one.

Later, through kelp “peek” glimpsed two wandering about, took a bead on their direction and intercepted with a disabling spine shot.

Up two, pressure was on.

Lyle delivered as usual.

Mike, the new kid, practically at the “bell” dove into a silty mess of 10’ of viz to see a WSB turn away.

Apparently contorting and twisting back around he took the successful shot and landed it.

Thanks to the Captain for putting us on... again.

Steve Parkford



Happy Birthday Robert!

Celebrating his 60th Neptune Style



Howard Shaak passes away at Age 91

I am saddened to inform you that Howard Shaack has passed away. He was involved in a fatal car accident June 29th. Howard was a long time Neptune for 62 years. Howard was instrumental in construction and operation and representing the Long Beach Neptunes Dragon at the Naples Boat Parade. He was the Dragon Master who controlled all the Flames and the "A-OOOOO-GAH" horn that the Neptunes Dragon was known for. He will be missed by all those who knew him and all those who misses the Dragon at the Naples Boat Parade. Below, we honor him by re-printing the "Trailblazer" article that Phil Polanco wrote for him back in 1995. Long may he be remembered



The Trailblazers

This section is dedicated to the pioneers of our sport.

To the brave who paved the way for the diving community. To the parents who led us by hand to expose us to another world; a world that does not exist for those who do not leave the surface.

"The Dragon... Oh man, that was fun!" I can hear the excitement in his voice as he starts to laugh; I am talking with Long Beach Neptune **HOWARD SCHAACK**.

Howard Schaack was born 91 years ago in a hospital that has long since disappeared. The year is 1928, the city is Los Angeles. Our nation was coming out of the roaring 20's and soon would be unknowingly headed towards the Great Depression. Howard's father worked as a garment cutter. *"He made patterns for clothing, you know, pants & dresses. He created them from other people's ideas and suggestions. He was good; good enough to keep twenty-four women busy sewing and making new clothes!"*

The Schaack family soon moved south and away from L.A. In the coming years, Howard spent many days fishing in the surf off Oceanside & San Clemente. *"My dad loved surf fishing and taught me so much,"* says

Howard. When the bite slowed or Howard got bored, he would cool off in the water. Before long, he was diving for small objects that he would throw back into the water and dive for again and again. The early divers had no wetsuits available and braved the cold waters of the Pacific. *"I had a bathing suit and that's it! It wasn't until 1939 or 1940 that I got my hands on a pair of flippers. Face masks were very new and very rare; I didn't have one,"* recalls Howard. *"A few years later, we wore flannel pants and wool sweaters to help keep us warm. I finally got a mask from Hawaii and made my own pole spears from a broom or mop handle. At the end of the handle, we attached a 'frog gig' that we picked up from the hardware store."*

In 1941, things began to slow down after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and WWII began. Howard's father is sent to the South Pacific as a Merchant Marine, running supplies for the United States troops. *"When my father left, he did not want anyone to drive his new car (a 1940 Chevrolet 2-door sedan) so he put it up on blocks, removed all four tires, and removed the oil from the engine. After a while, my mother asked me, 'Howard? Do you think that you could fix your fathers car?' I answered, 'I think I can'. I put the tires back on, the oil back in, and I practiced driving up and down our driveway until I felt comfortable driving the car. My mother didn't know how to drive which meant that I would become her chauffeur when she needed to get groceries, run an errand, or visit her sister, who still lived in Los Angeles."* Howard was 14 years old at the time. *"There were no freeways then; we took PCH up to Alameda. Boy, it sure took a long time!"* he laughs.

After meeting Frank Taylor in 1958, Howard was introduced to the Long Beach Neptunes. Frank offered to sponsor him into the club, and in 1960, Howard became a member. *"There were still no wetsuits. I was still using my pole spear and it was a few years later that I was given my first speargun as a Christmas gift! I still have it! It was a single banded gun and once I figured the darn thing out, I got all the fish I wanted!"*

The old tradition, LB Neptune Christmas Float, was well under way at this time. *"We had a sleigh that we would pull through the water. It had Santa on it and he was waving a trident in his hand. Then we had a big seahorse, but, it soon gave out - it didn't last too long. The floats were attached to paddle boards and man, people loved it! After that it was a whale. We covered it with fake epoxy snow and we put a propane burner inside that shot flames out of its blowhole!"* Howard laughs again. *"You could climb inside of the whale and sometimes we would pass out drinks from inside the thing!"* His laughs continue and I picture his face gleaming. *"Mel Clark, Bill Green, Dewey Hennessey, Bob Donnell, Sid Binder, Mike Oceanus ...they were all into it and wanting to make it bigger and better! Me too! Then it was the dragon... Three separate floating pieces: the head, mid-section and the tail. It had nine car batteries, lights, a 12v siren, a very loud 'ooga horn' & rigged propane to shoot 12' – 15' flames out of the nostrils! The kids and adults too would cheer as we pulled it through the canals. They would follow us from bridge to bridge as we swam and pulled it along."* He pauses for a few seconds... *"Long Beach Fire was afraid that we would get hurt or catch something on fire and it got too expensive for the club to continue. The cost of insurance and the permit was just too much. It was a part of Christmas in Naples for decades!"* another pause... *"The Dragon... Oh man, that was fun!"*

Thank you to **Howard Schaack** for sharing your memories with your fellow Long Beach Neptunes. I remember the dragon swim very well and I believe we *all* miss it – even the LB Fire Dept.

Phil Polanco
Long Beach Neptunes (Reprinted from Issue of Spring 2015)



Neptune Hats now available for Sale ..



We also have Trucker and Flex Fit style hats available.

Cost is \$15 for Flex Fit and \$10 for Snap Back Trucker Hats.

Hats will be available for sale at the July meeting.

Tentative Member Evan Heryet; Recently, Slaying some nice White Seabass





Big Smile from Jeff Benedict with Contest Leading 8.25 Lb Calico



Ex-Prez Todd Norell lands nice Yellowtail with a well placed shot



Magic Mike Does it again, with a little help from his friends



"Famous Seamus" with contest leading 40 Lb Yellowtail

**Brandon Whalers and
Ryan Moore slaying
some monsters ..**



Local Blue Fin Tuna Action !!

Recent action for Bluefin Tuna has been phenomenal. Josh Liberty has broken the California Record with a whopping 293 lb. Bluefin Tuna. Large migration of tuna spotted. A very rare sight of a Albino Bluefin Tuna has been spotted. The hunt is on for "Moby Dick".

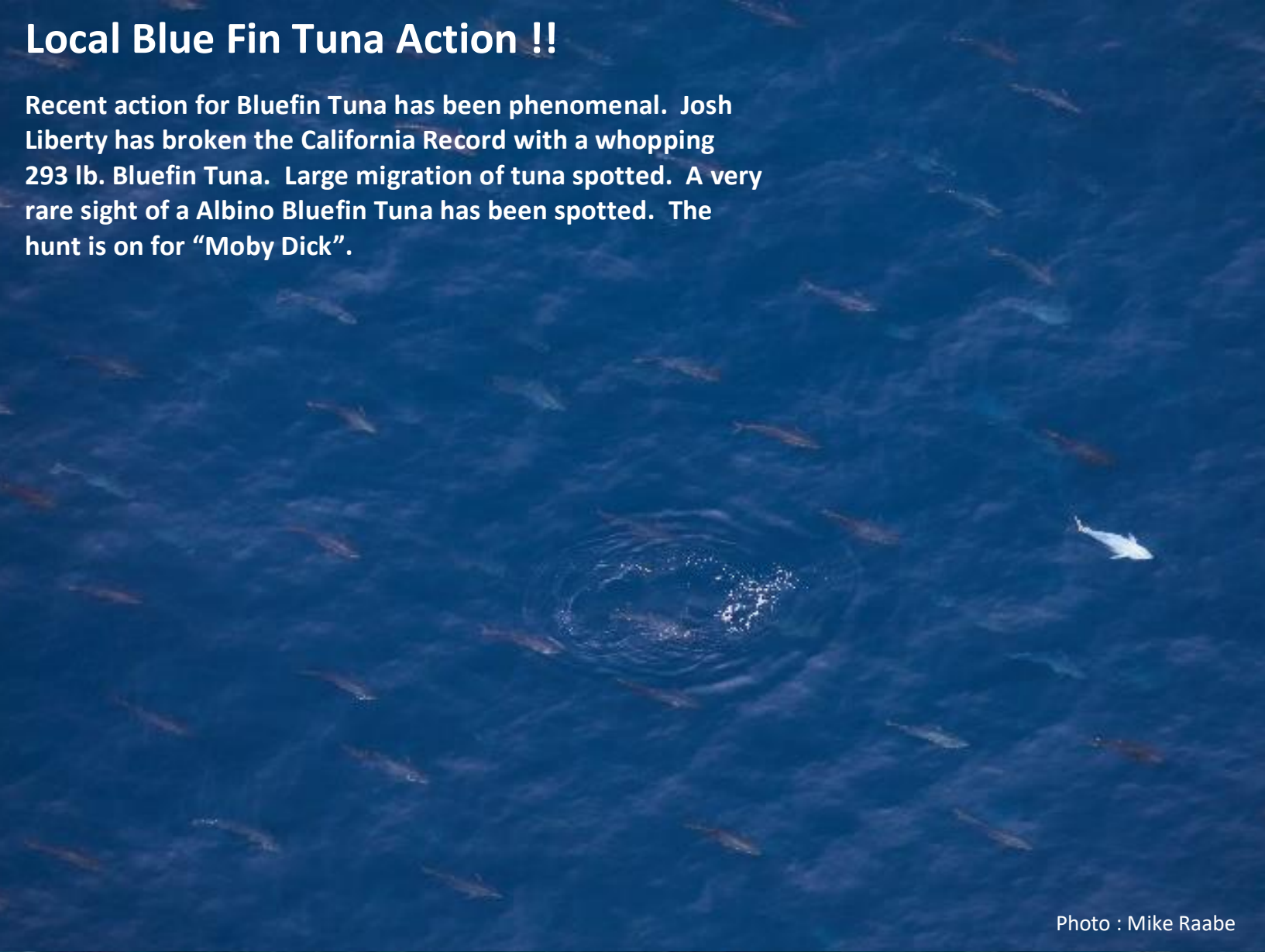


Photo : Mike Raabe



#1 rule of Tuna Hunting... Don't forget your Speargun

John Carpenter

Steve Parkford and I acted on some intel and made a quick run to Catalina a couple of weeks ago. Both of us had a couple of sightings on the backside and I managed to get a couple nice fish. Equally eventful was getting my anchor fouled in 130' of water late afternoon as the sun was going down and wind chop swell increasing. Did a bounce dive and freed the anchor before coming up as fast as possible but not too fast in order to signal Steve to raise the anchor. Geeze, I hate those kind of dives!!

51 Lb White Seabass



Classified Ad

For Sale: La Pangita Negra

It pains me to part with this boat, it has been an ultra reliable fish magnet, but I don't find enough time to take The Jäger (my Skipjack) out as it is, so having two boats just doesn't make sense.

The Pangita is a 14 foot Achilles Hypalon Inflatable (SU14) heavy duty, powered by a 30 hs Tohatsu 2 stroke outboard. It includes a Trail Rite trailer, a bimini top, a brand new spare prop, beach launching wheels, anchor, chain and line, and lots of extra parts.

I bought this boat from Allan Drexler, and it has always been stored in a garage. Allan bought it in 1987 and it is in excellent condition for its age as you will see from the pictures. The last time I took it to Tradewinds Inflatables, everyone came out of the shop to look at it.

This boat has a rich Neptune history, following is a list of some of the neptunes who have been on the pagnita: Jim Hair, Walt Arrington, Tom Perrelli-Minetti, Jay Riffe, Dale Cote, Harry Ingram, Jim Russel, Robert Strohbach, Wes Morrissey, Steve Alexander, John Carpenter, Jeff Nelson, Steve Madrid, Brett McQueen, Randy Schumm, Kent McIntyre, Bob Donnell, Brian Donnell, Peppo Biscarini, Mike Haggard and Allan Drexler.

I just took the boat apart and inspected it for leaks, put in a few small patches and it holds air well. I also just had the outboard serviced, and it continues to be a one-pull bullet proof machine.

Brand new, the boat alone is \$10,000. I would love to see another Neptune get as much enjoyment out of this boat as I have. I am selling the whole package for \$5,000. Please call me if you are interested (949) 230-5698

Jeff Bilhon





The Long Beach Neptunes would like to thank our sponsors

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