



May 2018

# TRIDENT



This month we are taking a moment to remember the and reflect on the life and achievements of Jay Riffe. Jay is truly a legend of the sport and one of the early innovators and fathers of freediving that we all owe a debt of gratitude because he has helped make our sport better.

As Neptunes, we are lucky that he has contributed so much to our club. Of course he was an incredible diver but more importantly he gave to the club and freediving in general through his service and dedication to the club and the sport of freedive spearfishing.

In March the Neptunes honored Jay Riffe with a lifetime achievement award and a night that was meant to celebrate and thank Jay for all that he has done for the club and for the sport of freedive spearfishing.

When they made Jay, they broke the mold. There will never be another like him.

## In this issue:

- President's message
- Club Announcements/Calendar
- DFW Announcements/News
- Jay Riffe Biography
- A Night For Jay
- A Quickie
- What's next?

Trident Newsletter is a publication of the Long Beach Neptunes – a non-profit organization dedicated to the art and lifestyle of spearfishing.

Editor: Louis Rosales

Web Master: Brandon Ward



### **2018 Neptunes Board**

#### **President**

Todd Norell  
(562) 309-3308  
[todd.c.norell@gmail.com](mailto:todd.c.norell@gmail.com)

#### **Vice President**

Mike Marsh  
(310) 650-6003  
[mmarshinc@gmail.com](mailto:mmarshinc@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Bill Peratt  
(310) 938-6040  
[Bill.peratt@aol.com](mailto:Bill.peratt@aol.com)  
[Dues/Payments](#)

#### **Tentative Manager**

Scott deFirmian  
(310)  
[Spearo10@yahoo.com](mailto:Spearo10@yahoo.com)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Lou Rosales  
(310) 469-1639  
[long.beach.neptune@gmail.com](mailto:long.beach.neptune@gmail.com)

#### **Club Historian**

Masahiro Mori  
(310) 628-8082  
[morifish@hotmail.com](mailto:morifish@hotmail.com)

#### **Conservation Liaison**

Terry Maas  
(805) 642-7856  
[tmaas@west.net](mailto:tmaas@west.net)

#### **Recording Secretary**

Dave Freeman  
(949) 945-8930  
[dbfreeman.jr@gmail.com](mailto:dbfreeman.jr@gmail.com)

## **Fish Standings 2018:**

2018 Calico Derby – Open  
Tuna (Ca) – Open  
Lobster – Open  
White Sea Bass – Jeff Benedict, 62.2 lbs  
Halibut – Scott deFirmian, 14.55 lbs  
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



## Presidents Message - May 2018

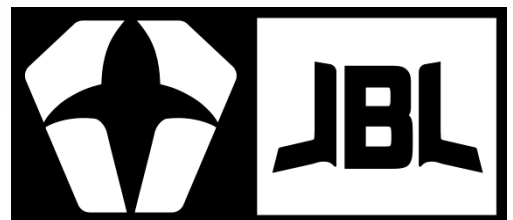
The long days are now here and the cool waters of springtime have been bringing some amazing harvests to the decks. The jumbo White Seabass have really made a showing so far this year and there's no sign the action waning soon. Numerous fish in the 50's and 60's have been landed by many a talented Neptune thus far. The murky kelp rooms are aplenty, whether you're diving off OC, PV or the Islands. Lets keep em coming! And, word has it that sportfishing boats are picking off mega size bluefin in Mexican waters now and that the fish are in a similar pattern as the last two years. So, better get those tuna guns ready! I personally can't wait to get into the bluewater soon, after missing the entire summer season last year. Now is a good time to make sure all your BW gear is ready to go and you're mentally primed for a safe and satisfying year ahead, whether you're staying local or traveling to far off lands in search of your prey. Thanks again to all who took part in our 2018 LBN Auction. The turnout was great and proceeds were ample. Our events for the rest of the year are all planned out and your board is excited about making sure they are a great and memorable time for all. At the May meeting Eric Bodjanac will do a presentation for us on East Coast spearfishing. Maybe a Striper is in your future?! Also at the May meeting we will be having an **important** club vote or two, and will be collecting Bluewater Meet Applications. The 2018 BWM is coming up soon on 6/2/18, so please try and attend!! In this issue of the Trident we have put together a compendium of the amazing night on March 7, 2018 when we paid tribute to Jay Riffe and presented his Lifetime Achievement Award. These images, and story of that evening, along with Mori's bio on Jay, will serve as an important historical record of Jay's accomplishment(s) for the many years and many Neptunes that the future will bring.



**Eternity is the Sun ~ Mixed with the Sea**

Arthur Rimbaud (*French Poet 1854-1891*)

Long Life Ahead  
Todd Norell



## 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:

Each year we depend Heavily 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.

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

**June 8, Neptune Meeting Cancelled:** Due to the proximity of the Blue Water Meet to the scheduled June meeting, the June meeting will be cancelled.

**July 4, Neptune Meeting :** Monthly Neptune Meeting has not yet been cancelled or rescheduled. The event will be updated if needed.

**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.



## **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 for white seabass is currently one per person, per day until June 15. Beginning June 16, it will be 3 per person until it changes back again March 15

### **Spiny Lobster:**

Lobster season is now closed. 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.





Celebrating a  
Lifetime of  
Spearfishing

Jay Riffe: The Myth, The Legend, The Man

Jay's Biography

Jay Riffe has spent the last 8 decades diving, spearfishing and building some of the finest spearguns. Not many can claim to have such a long history and career in Spearfishing. Countless fish were taken with Riffe Spearguns and many world records taken with these Spearguns. Here is a little insight into the life and history of Jay Riffe.

**The Long Beach  
Neptunes' proudly  
presents Jay Riffe with  
the Lifetime Achievement  
Award**  
*by Masahiro Mori*

1938 02/23/38 Jesse Riffe Jr. was born in Beverly Hills, CA. His mother, Eva Mae was part of the prominent family who founded the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco), and his father Jesse Sr. was a professional baseball player. His family and friends called him "Jay" to avoid confusion with his father.

1946 Jay Riffe accompanies his two brothers, Jim and John to Camp Fox, YMCA, on Catalina Island near long point . He borrows a pair of Churchill fins and a round mask and begins diving at the age of 8 with his brother John. He recalls that the water was crystal clear water, and the beauty of the ocean and the fish took his breath away. He fell in love with diving and frequently accompanied his brother John as a caddy. Jay would follow his brother around with a inner tube and a burlap sack as his brother would collect abalone and lobster. It is interesting that Jay does not recall seeing red tide until 1960-1961. The ocean seemed crystal clear all the time. The first fish Jay shot was a Garibaldi, which was legal to take at the time.

*morifish*

1951 At the age of 13, Jay worked a part time summer job, at the Sea-Net Manufacturing Co. for 50 cents an hour. Sea-Net Mfg Co was the first dive equipment manufacturing company on the west coast that made dive fins, masks and imported spearguns and early SCUBA equipment. Jay earned enough money to buy his first speargun, a French made "Arbalette Champion", a 2 banded euro speargun. Jay experimented with his first gun by converting it to use 4 bands for more range and power. This took place before the invention of the wetsuit. Jay wore a sweatshirt and cotton gardening gloves for protection. Jay recalls diving Palos Verde and divers would start a camp fire, so when they returned from diving, they could warm themselves around the fire. It was normal for divers to return bleeding from being bashed around the rocks. Later, Jay would dive the cold California waters using a "Bel Aqua Suit" (A rubber baggy drysuit worn over a sweatshirt or sweater for insulation.



*The Sea Cubs, 1953*

1953 Spearfishing became very popular in the 50's, and many spearfishing clubs emerged. Jay started competition spearfishing at age 15. Jay, with support from his brother John, and staged by the Laguna Boys Club of America formed a junior spearfishing club. They called it "The Sea Cubs". Jay Riffe, Tony Smith, Mike Vogel and Mike Wilke were among the members in this club. The Boys Club of America only supported boys up to 16 years old, so as the members grew older, in 1955, they changed the name of the club to "The Sea Bears". They dove and competed every weekend.

1953 Bob and Bill Meistrell made the first commercially made diving wetsuits and founded Body Glove. Jay rented one of the first wetsuits, a 3/16" thick wetsuit from Bill Meistrell, and liked it so much that he later ended up buying it. Jay has been lifelong friends of the Meistrell's ever since.

1960 On 5/1/60 Jay Riffe, representing the Sea Bears competed in the "Shark Rodeo" contest at Marine Land, Palos Verde. In this contest, Jay competed against some of the top diving competitors of the era, including Sam Ichikawa of the Nisei Kelp Tanglers, Bob Manicki of The Neptunes, Big John Carroll of The Pescadores and Dick Jappe of the Muirmen. In this event, the divers had to grab and wrestle a 6ft Blue Shark and swim it to the bottom and swim it back up to the surface against a timer. This event was organized by John Gaffney of Skindiver Magazine and televised live on NBC and hosted by none other than Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, on the Chevy Show which aired from 1959 to 1961. Jay Riffe ended up winning the "Shark Rodeo"

1952 In Feb of 1952, 14 members from the LA Neptunes break away to form the Long Beach Neptunes Nathan "Doc" Mathison was appointed as President. Dues were \$3 year. Later, Jay would compete against the Neptunes, and eventually become a member of the Neptunes.

1952 Hugh Bradner and Willard Bascom invents the neoprene foam sheet. Jack O'Neill gets a hold of this material and starts making surfing suits in his garage and founds the O'Neill Wetsuit company.





1960 Jay Riffe at age 22, wins and becomes Pacific Coast Spearfishing Champion.

1959-1963 Jay Riffe works as a Laguna Beach lifeguard. During his watch, Jay notices someone motionless on top of a paddleboard and drifting out to sea. Jay swims out to rescue him, but it turns out he didn't need help. He just fell asleep. This man was Jim Baldwin of the Long Beach Neptunes. Jay and Jim became close friends to this day. Jim Baldwin wins the Pacific Coast Championship in 1961, a year after Jay.

1963 Jay Riffe works for Mike Wilke, President of DoAll Machinery and fellow member of the Sea Cubs, now the Sea Bears. Jay continues working for DoAll for the next 39 years.

1964 Jay Riffe builds his first speargun in his garage. He found that the small arbalette style competition guns inadequate for big game spearfishing, and strived towards building a bigger more powerful speargun with more range.

1965 Jay Riffe met with Jorge Meyers, a glassblower from Australia. Jorge, an experienced spearfisherman, brought with him, a speargun with a 2-piece mechanism and a hoop on the front of the gun. They became friends and together began making spearguns with the 2 piece Australian mechanism.

1971 - 1974 Jay Riffe was asked to set up an Australian branch of DoAll Machinery Company. While in Australia, Jay started buying the Australian made "Undersee" 2-part speargun mechanisms. When he returned in 1974, he started importing these Australian mechanisms. Jay quickly became the person people would go, to supply them with mechanisms, teak speargun blanks, and other speargun hardware, as well as expert advice for their own homemade speargun builds. In this era, there was no commercially made big game speargun. The divers either had to know how to make one or knew someone who would be willing to make one.

1973 Jay Riffe marries Jackie Pierson. They have been now been married for 45 yrs.

1970's Jay Riffe starts concentrating more on big game fish and not so much on competition. Jay started pursuing larger game fish, which led to many trips to Mexico and abroad.



*Jay Riffe and John Mogduno*



Jay had some bad experiences in Mexico with notched shafts. The notch was a weak point on the shaft and would break on the strong Mexican groupers. Jay came up a solution. He invented the concept of welding shark fin tabs on the spear shaft, so there was no weak point from the notch. This allowed him to cut a deep track in his speargun because the shark fin tabs was on the top of the shaft and would protrude above the track. Jay polished the sharkfin tabs, so there was no sharp edges, which allowed him to use cord wishbones instead of the noisy metal wishbones. Jay also drilled a hole through the front sharkfin tab to attach the shooting line which eliminated the shooting line slide ring, which would clang against the slide ring stop. All these innovations eliminated the noisy metal to metal contact which would scare fish. These new concepts created a much more efficient and quiet speargun. The "Silent Hunter", became the Riffe slogan.

1974 Julie Riffe is born.

1976 Jill Riffe was born.



*Jay and Julie with some nice Amberjack*

1978 Jay Riffe, working out of his garage, begins production on big game teak spearguns and started selling them through retail dive shops. Jay Riffe was the first to mass produce big game spearguns. Before Jay Riffe, spearfishermen had to have the skill and know-how to make a speargun or knew someone who knew how to make one, otherwise they had to settle with a commercially made European Arbalette or a American made aluminum pipe speargun. Jay had a goal of making 100 guns annually, to pay off a mortgage debt. Later, Kent McIntyre would visit Jay Riffe in his garage workshop to buy teak blanks and speargun parts and pick his brain for inspiration. Kent was exceptional with his woodworking skills and made some beautiful hand shaped spearguns, with round corners with some radiused smooth sanded edges. At the time, most hand-made wooden spearguns were crude and square shaped, with sharp edges, functional, but not too ergonomic. Jay was impressed with Kent's workmanship and design and incorporated Kent's concept to his spearguns. Kent became a Long Beach Neptune, but unfortunately lost his life to shallow water blackout.

**ATOMIC**  
AQUATICS

1980 November 11, 1980, Jay Riffe shoots a IUSA World Record 62.25 lb Wahoo at Thetis Banks, Mexico

1983 October 20, 1983, Jay Riffe shoots a IUSA World Record 44lb 2oz Dorado at Bahia Magdalena Mexico.

1984 Jay Riffe becomes member of Long Beach Neptunes. Don Paul Gaboury was his sponsor

1985 L.B. Neptune member, Chuck "Carlos" Eyeles publishes the book "The Last of the Blue Water Hunters". This book was a tribute to a dying breed of underwater hunter/gatherers. This was the most inspirational spearfishing book of its time, and inspired a whole new generation of spearfishermen. Jay Riffe is on the cover, ascending from a dive clutching his world record Dorado taken in 1983.

1987 Jay Riffe is Vice President of the Long Beach Neptunes.

1988 Jay Riffe is President of the Long Beach Neptunes.

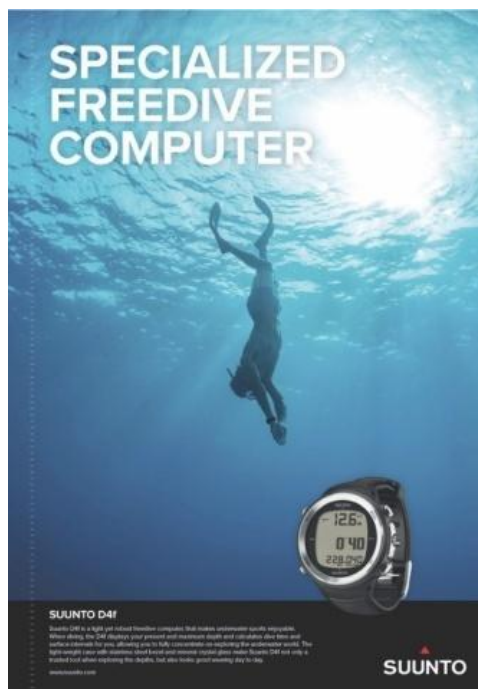
1991 January 7, 1991, Jay Riffe Shoots a IBSRC World Record 277.9 lb Yellowfin Tuna at San Benedicto Island.

1999 Jay Riffe and his entourage (Doug Ulmer and Robert Strohbach) are invited to Dubai by some of the highest ranked Sheiks aboard their 300ft yacht. The sheiks and other divers dove with tanks to shoot small reef fish. Jay Riffe, freediving to the bottom,

shoots a 84 lb rare Arabian Grouper called a "Hamoor". This impressed the Sheiks so much, Jay is declared "King of Spearfishing". Later in Qatar, Jay accidently exposed himself while getting out of his wetsuit and received a "Royal Scolding". It is considered a serious crime in the middle east to expose yourself, and they took serious offense.



*Don Gaboury, Jay Riffe and Doug Ulmer (L-R)*



2005 Jay Riffe is President of Long Beach Neptunes,..... Again !!

2018 Jay Riffe celebrates his 80th Birthday.

2018 Jay Riffe is presented the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Long Beach Neptunes for a lifetime of contribution to sport of spearfishing and representing the LB Neptunes . Jay Riffe is a large part of the history of spearfishing and the entire spearfishing community is indebted to his contributions.

Jay Riffe is celebrating 40 years of making spearguns. Currently, Riffe International manufactures 46 models of spearguns, and produces 6000 spearguns annually. Riffe products also include almost every diving accessory and spearfishing gear. Riffe spearguns can be found in every country in the world that spearfishes. This year, Riffe will be introducing the new Marauder series of spearguns.

And the legacy continues.....



*Spearfishing Innovators and Legends, Wally Potts, Jay Riffe, Jack Pradanovich, and John Mogduno (L-R)*



*Jay and Julie with the winning fish. Blue Water Meet 1998*

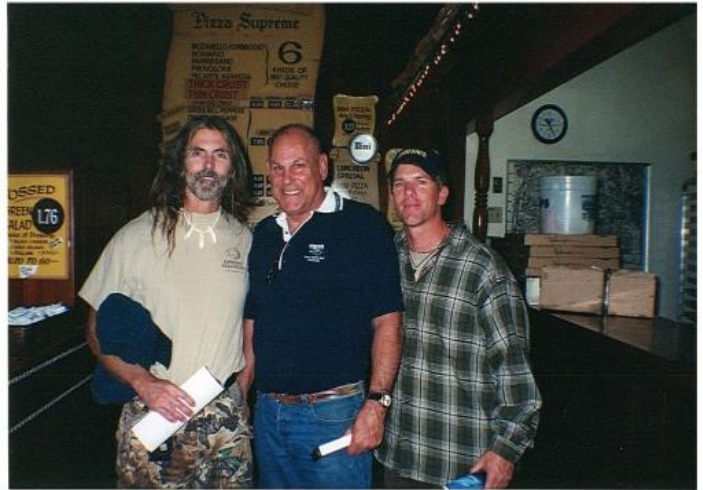
An underwater photograph of a diver swimming. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through the surface.

YOUR FREEDIVING AND SPEARFISHING SOURCE.

**HOUSE OF SCUBA** 



*Jay Riffe showing one of his early guns with a hoop on the muzzle*





Lifetime Achievement  
Award



Courage ~ Dedication ~ Honor ~ Trust

Jay Riffe

March 7, 2018





## A Night for Jay

As 2018 took shape, the LB Neptunes board knew that we had great opportunities ahead to set the stage for some great club events, and even some unique tributes. It was initially proposed by our club Historian, Mori, that we honor Jay Riffe in 2018 (Jay's 80<sup>th</sup> year) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. And so it was unanimously agreed, by the board, and then by the club General Membership. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the memorable event took place as a part of our annual Awards Banquet. It was one of the most amazing turnouts of Neptunes in recent years. Jay and his family, along with many of his dearest friends ~ legends of California freediving history, attended and relished the evening. We introduced many of Jays lifelong spearfishing pals, presented a slide show (narrated by Jay himself) that literally encompassed his entire career of freediving, & heard many a tale about Jay's famous accomplishments & exploits. Tears of laughter and happiness were shed by more than a few. Jay was practically speechless and certainly humbled by the love he felt in the room that night. A custom Life Achievement Award trophy was unveiled and presented to Jay on behalf of all the Long Beach Neptunes from both past and present. Many of those in attendance signed the back of it, offering their personal tribute to Jay ~ mentor, hero, husband, father, grandfather, friend. So please enjoy these photos from that amazing night and the fantastic Bio on Jay's life that was composed by Mori. - TN



# Time for a Quickie?!

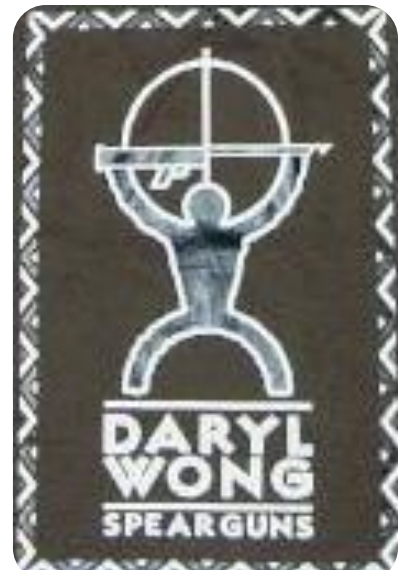
## TWENTY MINUTE FISH, Part I

I've put in a few dives earlier in the season and decided to stock up on some points with the wife before I decide to go all in in April/May. Well the time had come and was able to connect with a nice fish turning out to be my PB at 34 lbs.

I got to the bottom of the hill to find a couple of divers in the spot I wanted to hit so I decided to go in another direction. The vis started to decrease drastically and I was about to turn back around and work back towards better vis but then the words of my ever-wise mentor played in my head "these fish love the murk". I decided to spend some time in the mud and I stuck it out for a whopping 5 more minutes before I laid eyes on the aft portion of the fish. The front half was in the next kelp room.



I dove down to the fish and came up behind it about 8 feet away on her six. I immediately sent the shaft behind its head out out it's gills. She pulled 5 feet of line before giving up the ghost, making the retrieval quick work. The laborious hike back up the hill was done much less begrudgingly this time around.





## TWENTY MINUTE FISH, Part II- Déjà Vu All Over Again

At last our schedules aligned and Hughes and I made plans to hit the water at day break. I felt much less relaxed as I recently shot my first fish of the season so the pressure was off. As we approached the water I knew it was going to be good, everything just felt right. After a quick prayer and a "see you back shortly with a fish" we were off. I kept my eye on John trying to gauge where and how he was diving (also to make sure he didn't shoot anything too quickly). I noticed him surfacing a lot and figured he had one on-surprise surprise! I couldn't come back empty handed, still I did my best to remain collected. Several dives later I'm descending to 20' when I see a school of fish pass underneath me. As I get into position I'm still descending which spooks the fish a little. Thankfully a few stragglers cruise by and decide to pull the trigger on one of the smaller ones in the school thinking it was going to be around 20lbs. The shot placement was virtually the same as the previous fish, straight down on the fish's shoulder through the gills. As I trace my line back to my fish I surface to see John humbly displaying his fish, just in case I wanted to refresh my memory on what they looked like. He can be

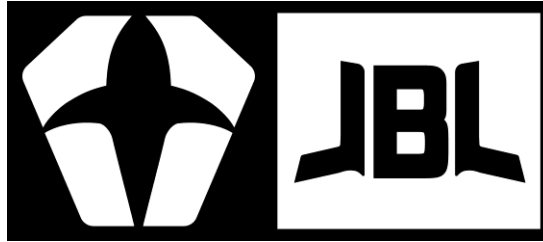
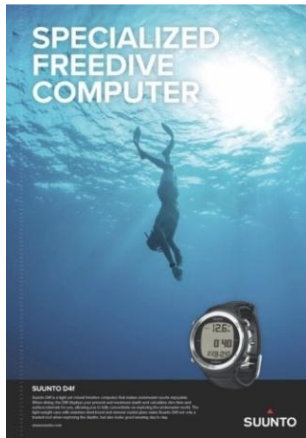


so thoughtful! The dispatch and retrieval was uneventful, thankfully, and he only beat me back to shore by about 5 minutes. His fish went 53 and mine came in at 34.8 beating my previous PB. Two dives, to fish, two PB's- I'll take it.

Getting fish with your friend and mentor is a great experience but what made it even more special was this was virtually a repeat of our first dive together. Same spot and same scenario only this time I shot my fish much sooner. Last time Hughes was able to bring his fish back to his car, change, come down and play a few rounds of sudoku before I made it back to shore!  
Eric Bodjanac



Please use our sponsors: To access their websites, click on the logos.



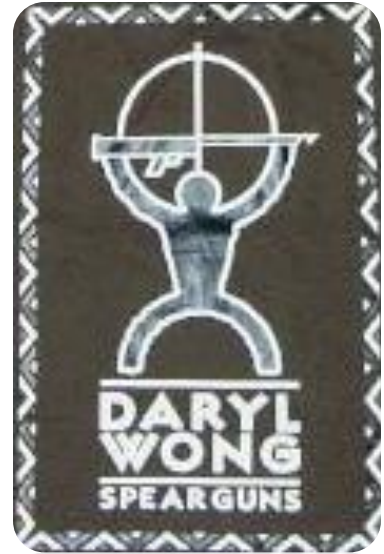
Please use our sponsors: To access their websites, click on the logos.

# OKATIN

AMERICA'S SURF CO.



# ATOMIC AQUATICS



# HERRANEN

s p e a r g u n s





As we look forward to June the biggest thing on many Neptune's mind is the Blue Water meet. June 2<sup>nd</sup>! It's approaching quickly, so get your crew, get on a crew or do what ever you need to do so that you can be a part of one of the premier dive events of the year....anywhere. Also, next month the monthly meeting will be cancelled due to the proximity of the blue water meet.

Thank you to Mori for his Jay Riffe biography, Todd for his tribute in wood and words and also to Eric Bodjanac for his "Quickie".

Each of our sponsor's logos can now be found two places. One is randomly placed in the newsletter somewhere and one on the sponsor's page. Please check their websites by clicking on their logos.

Next month we will have a few more photos from Terry's incredible collection of photos and hopefully we will have a few more adventures to get the blood ready for the Blue Water Meet. 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