

The

TRIDENT

The official publication of the Long Beach Neptunes



May 2019



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IMPORTANT

Important Club Announcements

- To improve communications between the general membership and Executive Board, we will be using LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com from now on, for **ALL COMMUNICATION, including: Fish Applications, Tournament Applications, Questions, Comments, Compliments, Complaints, Newsletter Articles, Annual Dues thru Paypal, and any other PayPal payments.** This will make it convenient and easy to remember rather than having to use separate email for each board member or separate event.
- **Please note that the Bluewater Meet will take place the June 1st, the Saturday before the June Meeting. So, if you plan to participate in the 2019 Blue Water Meet, you should submit your entry form and entry fee at the May meeting. A copy of the 2019 BWM application is included in this newsletter for your convenience.**
- 2019 BWM T-Shirts will be available at the next General Meeting. Cost is \$20 ea or two for \$30. Long Sleeve T-Shirts and Sweatshirts will also be available.
- The board is considering moving the 2020 Blue Water Meet weigh-in from Buffalo Park to the front Beach area. Although this move will increase cost to the club, we think we can manage it. Details regarding this move will be discussed at the May Meeting.
- 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.
- Family Campout date will be July 12-16th. For more information, contact Lou Rosales @ (310) 469-1639 or Mahtzo1@frontier.com
- We are considering making embroidered Neptune hats. If you have any interest, comments, complaints or suggestions, please notify the executive board.

IMPORTANT

A Message from the President



Fellow Neptunes,

White Seabass in the kelp, Bluefin on the boarder! Thank God things are starting to look up. This spring has held some of the worst diving weather I can remember. But that just makes the recent fish successes so much sweeter. Have you ever noticed that the early season silence from the usual WSB slayers can be deafening. I know that when I'm not hearing from certain people that the fish are probably in.

The 2019 Auction was a big success! I want to thank the Board for all their tireless work to pull it off. I also want to thank all of those members and sponsors who donated their items, trips and time to ensure the Long Beach Neptunes will be well funded throughout the year.

The Blue Water Meet is only one short month away. One of my favorite events of the year. I can always count on getting a nice fish (the day before or after). Following Seamus's epic win last year will be difficult, but we need to make sure it stays in the club this year! Applications will be available at the May meeting along with our new 2019 Blue Water Meet tee shirts. This year's event is going to be a blast, and the board has some surprises planned for the 2020 BWM which we will also discuss at the May meeting.

I hope to see you all there.
Dive Safe!

Jeff



LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

56th – ANNUAL BLUE WATER MEET
2019 Catalina Island

This meet is held by the Long Beach Neptunes at Santa Catalina Island on **SATURDAY, JUNE 1st, 2019** and is **STRICTLY INVITATIONAL**. All entries will be verified. To participate, you must qualify under at least one of the following conditions:

1. Any Tentative, Full or Life Member of the Long Beach Neptunes in active standing on the 2019 roster.
2. Any Tentative, Full or active member of the LA Fathomiers, SD Freedivers, OC Spearos, and other invited clubs.
3. Non-club members: You must be officially sponsored to compete by an active Full or Lifetime Member of the Long Beach Neptunes. Each Neptune can only sponsor one person and the Neptune **MUST** sign and submit the entry form of the individual sponsored.

Divers may begin at dawn but must conclude their diving and be at the Two Harbors weigh-in site by 4pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. All fish entries not inside the weigh-in circle will be disqualified. The eligible fish are: **YELLOWTAIL, WHITE SEABASS, BARRACUDA, BONITO, CALICO BASS, HALIBUT, DORADO, and TUNA family.** **NO SCUBA DIVING IS PERMITTED.** **The diving area will include all waters within 4 miles of Santa Catalina Island.**

WEIGH-IN AT 4PM SHARP!!!

YOU PROVIDE: 1) Entry Fee. 2) This SIGNED Entry/Liability release. 3) Your own transportation. 4) Protein of choice and cooking utensils. 5) Game Fish

WE PROVIDE: 1) 1ST thru 5th place trophies for top 5 largest fish taken the day of the meet. 2) The winning diver's name will be engraved on the "Big Jim" perpetual trophy. 3) Beach pit BBQ with salad, mashed potatoes, baked beans, BEER, soda, water, paper plates, cups, napkins, and **THE BEST GAME FISH MEET IN THE WORLD BETWEEN SOME OF THE WORLDS BEST GAME FISH HUNTERS!**

Long Beach Neptunes Bluewater Meet Waiver

DIVER'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED. If under 18 years of age, Parent or Guardian must sign. One entry per application.

I assume entry into this event at my own risk. In consideration of my participation, I intend to be legally bound. I do hereby assume all risk for myself, heirs, executors, administrators, and assign, waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages I may have or hereafter accrue to me against the sponsors, Long Beach Neptunes or any other individuals and/or groups involved in coordination of this event, for any and all damages and/or injuries which may be sustained by me in connection with participation in the Long Beach Neptunes Bluewater Meet. I further attest and verify that I am physically fit, enjoying good health, and have sufficient expertise for participation in this event. Parent and/or Guardian agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above sponsors of any and all damages received in the event the entrant is a minor.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE EMAILED TO LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com. REGISTRATION FORMS WITH PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW AND POST MARKED **NO LATER THAN MAY 29, 2019. PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED VIA **PAYPAL AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.** **PAYMENTS AND FORM SUBMISSIONS WIL BE ACCEPTED AT THE GENERAL CLUB MEETING ON MAY 1, 2019.****

Blue Water Meet t-shirts will be sold at a discounted rate of \$15 to all tournament participants. Shirts will be available at May club meeting as well as the weigh in station the day of the tournament.

INVITATION TYPE: [] Entry Fee - \$50 (*Specify Club*): _____

 [] Neptune Sponsor (*Print Name*): _____

 Neptune Sponsor Signature: _____

 [] Non-Competitor - \$10 (*Print Name*): _____

Name of Diver (*Print Name*): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Diver Signature: _____

If diver is a minor, please indicate age: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Please submit additional entries on a separate app. Make check payable to, **LONG BEACH NEPTUNES** and mail, along with signed entry form, to: **Long Beach Neptunes c/o Brian York 1940 Volk Ave. Long Beach CA 90815** **PAYPAL** payments can be made to: **LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com**. Include **FULL NAME** and **BWM 2019** in **DESCRIPTION FIELD**. Choose the, **"I'm sending money to family or friends"** option when sending payments. After Paypal payment has been made, scan and email signed application to: **LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com**.

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.

Any inquiries or any questions regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to :

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2019 Neptune's Calendar

05/01/19 Wed Meeting (BWM Application Accepted)
 06/01/19 Sat 56th Annual Blue Water Meet
 06/05/19 Wed Meeting
 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	Open	
White Seabass	John Hughes	61.1 Lbs
Yellowtail	Open	
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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**Steve
Alexander's
Teenie - Tiny
Mini - MINI**



Hi Friends,

Some of you, I have not seen for a while, so I will bring you up to date on what's going on at my end. Since the fire, I am living comfortably in a loaner Motorhome, parked inside my shop, here in Ramona. My age is catching up to me so I have not been very active. The rebuilding process seems to have stalled for lack of available skilled contractors. I think they all went to Nor Cal to earn "the big bucks" in the major fire damaged areas.

Candice is expecting again; hoping for a girl this time for sure!

With the ground still soft from the rains, I have been playing with my tractor for the past few weeks.' making trails, levies, and ponds. Next up is dealing with the weed forest.

I just got a new addition to my Mini collection; a real custom Austin Cooper, as you can see in the picture. It is actually currently registered with California tags and can hit 80 MPH and reportedly gets 38 MPG. It is as long as it is wide and takes up less space than my Quad as you can see. This will be my new grocery getter, as it is a bit sketchy on the freeway. I finally have a place to install the Train "Air-Horn" that came to me from an Amtrack locomotive. Until I get around to doing that, I will rely on the little squeeze-bulb horn off my grandsons tricycle, which I already mounted on the windshield pillar. The gas tank is made from an AC refrigerant bottle; holds only 3 gallons. What a Chick-Magnet !!

I hope you are all well and enjoying life.

Cheers,

Steve

Captain Ron: Guardian Angel in the Kelp! (A King Neptune Story)

By Byron Quinonez

I've been chasing after my last fish for my King Neptune, the elusive White Seabass. For years I've been pulling in respectable 40+ pounders, but couldn't break that 50 pound barrier. One year, I shot a fish in the low 50's weighed on the boat, but when I weighed it later that day on land, it went 49.8!!! I felt there after I'd easily knock that 50 mark, but no such luck.

This year, I was determined to get my fish! I'd increase my odds, including working on my shore dives. Great-humping the hills with weights, slipping into the rocky surf line at dawn, before the work day begins, just to increase my time in the water. But like many of you, I found this to be a very slow season.

I had been diving the Island since January, and working the hills in February and March to no avail. 11 dives in, and nothing to show! Not even a single sighting! To make matters worse, Paul Zylstra comes home from a month in New Zealand to shoot a whopper on his second dive of the year! What a KOOK!!!

So it's set, I'm going for an early weekday dive with Paul Hugoboom's mentor. I found out he had about 3-4 times as many dives as me without a fish, I didn't feel so bad. So we start from shore, and kick what had to be a mile up the line to the kelp bed. On the way out, I see red tide, 57 degree water, and maybe 5-10 foot of viz. I soon hit the down-current side of the bed, working my way up, to see the other diver with a nice fish on the surface! Congrats! Fish are in, got to slow down and really work the bed.

Still green 8-10 foot of viz, I keep my movements slow-hanging from kelp stocks, moving into each kelp room, at full attention. As I'm holding onto a stock at 10 feet, when a GIANT SILVER TORPEDO descends off my 9 O'clock! Just barely in sight, I can't turn in time- it had to be in the 70's! Oh no- did I miss my chance of the day?

Still working the kelp, about 1-1/2 hours later, I see a familiar sight just below me, down to my right. I immediately slip in behind it, and align my shot toward its shoulders. The fish never spooked, I must have swam along with it for at least 2-3 seconds before I pulled the trigger! Boom! My 60" Mori, which I picked up from our late friend Rick Hadley several years back did its duty! I watched my reel run out, as I made my



way back to the surface. By the speed and strength of the pull, I knew it was a good shot.

I follow the line, and see the fish tied up about 40 feet down, wrapped around a kelp stalk at least 5 times! Damn, this is going to take me an hour to get out, and another hour to kick all the way back to shore! This is going to SUCK!

As I'm breathing up, I look out in the distance, and see a familiar boat! OMG, it can't be? As the Captain is moving slowly on the outside of the kelp, and recognize his face! I waive him in, and let him know I have a solid fish on. "Who is that?" "It's Byron, Captain Ron! And I got a nice fish on!" So glad to have him spotting me during fish retrieval!

We managed to get the fish (and about 50 pounds of kelp) to the surface! A few quick pics, and Ron offers to drive me into shore! How epic, not having to kick another mile back in, fending off 7 gills or John Hughes' spies on the cliff!

I took a few pics on the shore, where the fish weighed in at 57.0. By the time I got it back to Zylstra's for more pics and photos, the fish weighed 54.9- enough for my King Neptune qualifier! Finally!

So stoked I got to share my King Neptune fish with Captain Ron! I was just as stoked to find out he scored another lunker that afternoon!

Thanks again for the boat ride, Captain Ron!!!

FINALLY THE STORIES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF!

"SHALLOW WATER WHITE OUT" BY: EVAN HERYET

On a most beautiful sunny morning early this season, I headed out just before high tide, diving from shore. With no wind, no divers and no boats around I was psyching for yet another classic California weekday diving experience.

As I entered the water, waiting for the three foot swell to wash up onto to rocks, I easily slide into the cold mass of liquid that always seems to encompass my imagination from above and even more so to infatuate my complete attention with my face breaching its surface.

As I typically do, I swam to the outside of the kelp bed to the upside of the current to start my dive. After an hour of no luck with about twenty feet of visibility, I was confident that there was no action to be had. I swam to the inside of the bed to have a look. After a half hour of top to bottom visibility there I was confident that the action there was lacking as well. I decided to head to shore and call it a day. As I approached shore and the stringers started to disappear I unloaded my gun and wrapped up my slip-tip for safe storage for the approach to shore. In about eight feet of water I started to dive under water and ride the small waves at the oceans bottom as they came in as a body surfer might before he makes is underwater takeoff breach. The second wave I rode put me into some milky shore water and I suddenly found myself surrounded by a large group of sea creatures in four to six feet of water. It was hard to identify what they were due to the poor visibility. As soon as I could even mentally establish that I had come into the school, they bolted with a heavy and powerful sound and I sat stunned in the surf line thinking to myself, "What could they have been?" I decided that it must have been seabass because I love to lie to myself when there is even a chance that I can score. And what the hell else could they have been although it didn't really add up.

So I loaded my gun and swam out twenty feet away from shore. With my gun again loaded I started making my way in to the surf zone. Since I was weighted for thirty feet neutral bouncy I was forced to dive down to hold stiff plant stocks along the bottom. After about three advances of pulling my way shoreward advancing along the bottom, stock to stock, I came across two large shadows that approached me from right to left at about ten feet out. I aimed at the first one and pulled the trigger as it broadsided me perfectly within five feet. In my excitement I knew I immediately knew I connected and started pulling to short line the fish as there was no kelp anywhere around to tie up in. As I climbed the shooting line and approached the fish I noticed that I had a gut shot and was approaching a tear out. I immediately pulled in the line until I reached the fish. The fish was swerving violently side to side and was difficult to pin down since I was in the open shallows but finally after a few passes I was able to grab it by the head with my hands and secure its tail between my legs. From there I purposefully withdrew my knife, bear-hugged and brained it. From there, after bleeding, I was able to easily swim it the remaining twenty feet to shore for landing. It was a short fish but quite fat and after weigh in it was just over forty pounds.

I have heard stories of seabass being seen swimming by surfers and paddelboarders in the surf zone and now I know it is not a thing of fiction. Perhaps we can all take a lesson form this story: Never unload your gun until the last possible moment and expect to see seabass in the most unexpected places.

THE BEACH MASTER !



We apologize for picture quality a severe fog rolled in at the time of this photo ;)

Tentative Introduction: Jon McMullen

Sponsor: Paul Zylstra

My name is Jon McMullen...and I'm a kook - I didn't start spearfishing until my mid 30s and I turn 40 next month.

I was born and raised in Long Beach and my family has been here for 5 generations. I grew up in, on and around the water: swimming, surfing, bodysurfing, paddling and boating. I played water polo and swam in high school and used to be a Long Beach lifeguard (as was my father, as was his father). I come from an aquatic family (my dad swam at Stanford and just missed the Olympics and my sister played water polo at USC).

I still consistently surf and bodysurf with my dad and we swim with a team 3 days a week. During the summer months in my 20s and early 30s we used to



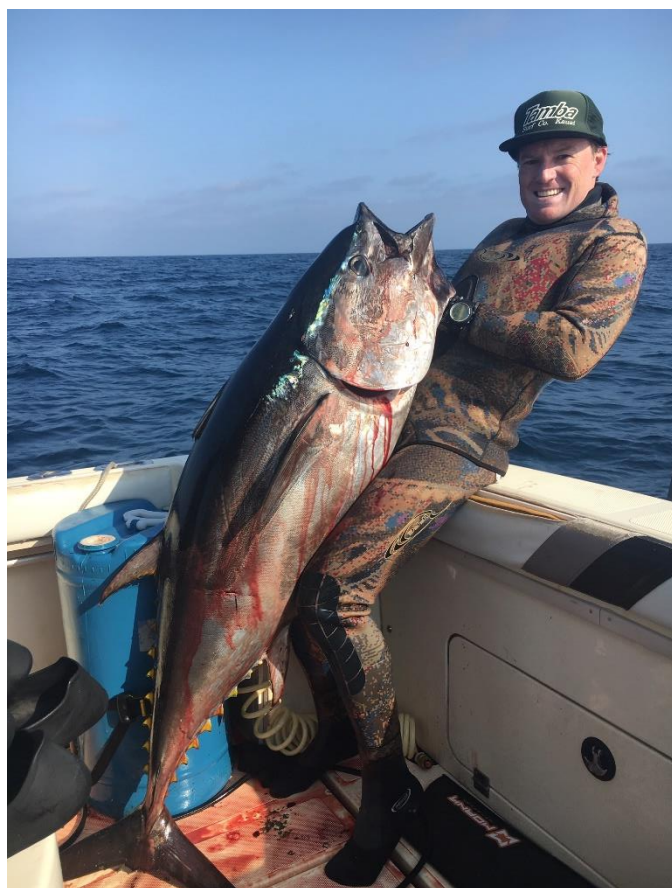
spend a lot of time racing prone paddleboards and conjuring up bizarre ocean swims. We've competed in paddleboard races in Australia, Hawaii and all along the CA coast. I've paddled from SBI to Catalina, from Cat Harbor around the east end to the Isthmus, and from Catalina to the mainland (over a dozen times in the 22-mile Rock to Rock and 32-mile Catalina Classic races). I've paddled between Molokai Island and Oahu (32-miles) twice. A couple of times we swam the 17-mile Na Pali Coast in Kauai over a 2 day period; we swim 10 miles the first day, sleep in holes we dig in the sand, then swim 7 miles the next morning. Two of my old

lifeguard buddies and I created an event called the Big Richard where we start at the Wedge in Newport and end up at the Queen Mary. You're only allowed to run on the soft sand (23 miles) and you have to swim the piers and jetties along the way as well as the entire length of Seal Beach (6 miles).

I wish I had as much to talk about in regards to spearfishing. Somehow I was never properly introduced in my youth and my first bug dive was with an old lifeguard buddy in 2011. My experience



wasn't unique - I was hooked! However, I didn't explore spearfishing until a few years later and didn't properly dive in until I took a couple of Fii courses in the spring of 2016. I borrowed some gear from Spear America and talked my way into a Diving for a Cause Trip to Palapas Ventana that summer. On my first day drift diving I landed a roosterfish - I had no idea what I was doing, it was a



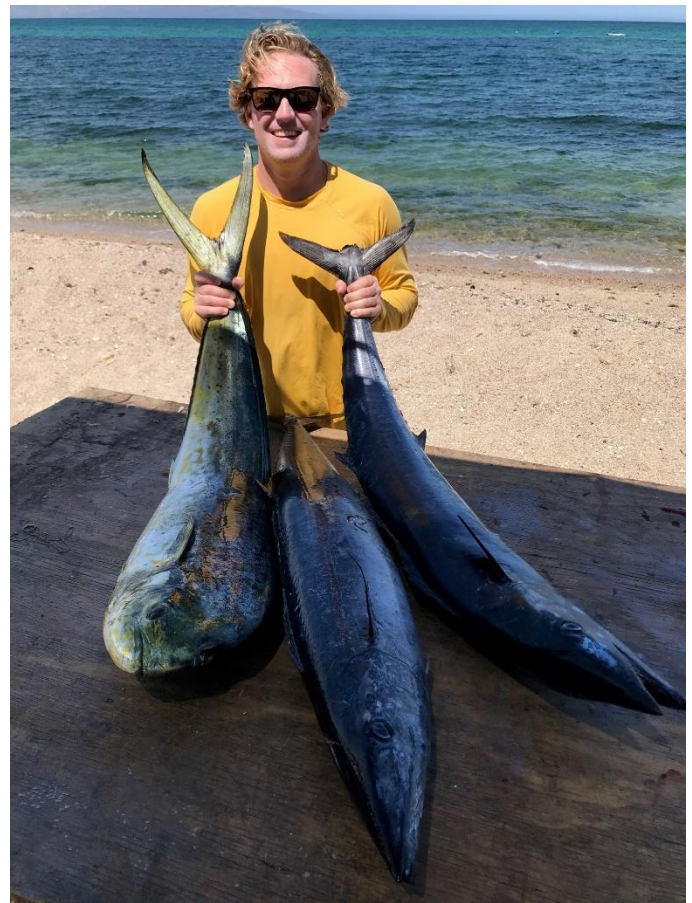
miracle! The next day I landed another roosterfish as well as a dorado and YFT! I saw 2 striped marlin on that trip and was paralyzed by their size and beauty. At the end of 3 days our group donated over 400 lbs of fish to the local schools. On that trip I became absolutely obsessed with spearfishing, blue water hunting and talking story with other divers.



PV has become a special place for us and we've returned every summer since that first visit.

I currently live in Belmont Shore with my girlfriend Lyndsay (and dog Duke) and I work for a bank in downtown LA. I have a partnership with a couple of buds on an Avon that I use for bug dives and cruises around Alamitos Bay, and a partnership with my dad on a 26' pursuit that I use for trips to the islands and PV. I love sharing my catch with friends and family almost as much as the hunt itself. I love hearing others' diving stories and I love passing on what limited knowledge I have of the sport. I'm predominantly a weekend diver but will take weekdays off too. I like diving Catalina and PV and I'm just starting to learn more about SCI and SBI. I've been lucky enough to land a few wsb but that's really an area I'd like to focus on.

I'm really excited and honored to potentially be a part of this club. I've been a tentative since August of 2018 and really enjoyed the conversations I've had with current club members. Thank you to



everyone for being so welcoming and thanks especially to my sponsor Paul Zylstra (and Dave Freeman for the intro) who took a chance and invited me for a dive before we'd met face to face. After spending time diving w him and a few other members, and learning more about what the club is all about, I knew I wanted to try my best to become a Neptune.



I look forward to the opportunity to become a positive contributor to this organization and continue its rich tradition. I'm excited to get to know those of you I have not met and to hear your backgrounds and stories.

Thanks for reading,

Jon



Big Fish... Finally, the season has begun !!

After all the early season rain, the weather has finally been cooperating and the fish are finally making a strong showing. Here are some notable recent catches. Mike Marsh with a 52.8 lb white, Mike Feldman with a 56.2 lb White and a 31 lb Yellow. Byron Quinonez with a 54.9 Lb White to complete his King Neptune. Josh Wels with a nice 47.34 Lbs. John Hughes with the contest leading 61.1 lb White Seabass. Jorge Ramirez, (Tentative) with a 60 lb White.



The 11th Annual San Carlos Mexico Yellowtail Open

by Seamus Callaghan

Saturday, April 6th 2019

With over 40 contestants, the competition was fierce. Many fish were taken, but in the end, it was Seamus Callaghan who stood out among the crowd and reigned victorious.



I had traveled Baja and the Mexican Riviera for many years prior to even hearing of San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico. I remember my Arizona based retail dive stores talking about it, as was the primary destination for their Open Water SCUBA certifications. Essentially an elite suburb of Guaymas, San Carlos sits 250 miles directly south of Nogales, AZ, and 80 miles directly across the Sea of Cortez from Santa Rosalia, on the mainland side. Unlike the winding single lane Hwy from the San Diego border to Santa Rosalia, the drive down the mainland side is serviced by a 4 lane divided toll highway, and is quite an easy drive in comparison. However, coming from CA, adds an additional 7 – 8 hours on top, and makes for a long jaunt! On this occasion, a jaunt I shared with fellow Neptunes, Mike “Bitchslapper” Marsh and Todd “T Man” Norrell. Also along to represent the US contingent was Jim Dexter and a group from the San Diego Freedivers, including reigning champion Mike Feldman, AARon Deal and Dave Rachel.

We met up with the San Diego wanna bees at hotel in Gila Bend, AZ, a place that if you’ve not visited before, you really should not bother! That being said, the large bottomed ladies from behind the front desk seemed to



get some of the guys excited to visit again! We had commuted there the day prior to break up the drive some, and also T'Man's marathon joke telling. It is not a marathon of multiple jokes, but one joke spread over a 7 hour drive!

The next day, we continued our drive through Arizona and crossed the border at Nogales, then on down to San Carlos, arriving late that Thursday afternoon. After unloading at the boat most of the guys were staying and diving off of, we headed in to for JJ's Tacos, the best in town!



Todd Norell, Mike Marsh and Crew, with a boat load of nice Yellowtail.

The annual Yellowtail event started back in 2006 with a modest 20 or so divers, mostly from the US, with a couple of locals in the mix. After winning the first couple of year's events personally, the meet grew, ruining it for me, as I watched others holding up the trophies ever since. The US contingent had grown, including a group from the Fathomiers, Erik Banados, Richard Balta and Joe Farlo, that had the good fortune of flying down in a private plane for several year's events. Then came the year that the Yellowtail Won, with not a single fish taken between the 35 – 40 divers competing! The conditions were favorable overall, but an upwelling had caused the water to turn bitterly cold overnight and shut down the fishing on the day.

After that, the US contingent dwindled to the hearty. This year's event had about 15 total US Divers, the 7 of us from California and the rest from Arizona. However, in the year's since the big freeze, the Mexican contingent has grown consistently, with divers coming in from Cabo, La Paz, Los Mochis, Obregon and Hermosillo, making up the total of 40 competitors in total for this year.

And not just rogue divers from these areas, but sponsored teams, including "Spearfishing Los Mochis" team from Los Mochis and the "Cortez Crew" from Hermosillo. These are fierce competitors with some hardcore divers, but despite the non-stop banter, everything is kept on a friendly and respectful level, not met a nicer bunch of guys, far better than the company I suffered the drive down with.

After a warm up and scouting day Friday, with numerous fish taken, we had a game plan for the big day!

I had tactfully unloaded my entourage on to the live aboard, so I could dive off a different boat, giving myself a chance to shoot.

Diving for Yellowtail in San Carlos area is not like diving for them locally in CA. I find it best to dive down a lay on a rock looking out into deeper water and waiting for them to come in. The water is too green for flashers, and bait too difficult to hunt by.



I started my dives on a pinnacle I was familiar with that came up out of deeper water to about 60'. On my second dive, a group of medium sized fish came in on me and blasted one wanting to get the skunk off my back early. After dropping the fish at the boat, too many Sea Lions not to, I returned to my pinnacle and made a dive. Pow !!, shot another fish, a little larger than the first, but still only in the 20# range and unlikely to be a contender. Another dive another fish, I was 3 for 3, each one getting a little larger, but still not enough!



“Famous” Seamus with the 37.5 lb winning fish.

I was diving off of my own charter boat out of San Carlos, Piesquita, aboard were most of the AZ contingent of divers, mostly novice, but a couple had boarded some fish, including Alex Mayr with his first yellowtail ever, bravo!

Knowing with a novice group of divers, I may not be able to dive exactly where I wanted due to conditions etc, I had chartered a panga as a chase boat. In true Mexican style, the panga had just shown up as I landed my third fish, 2 hours late. As I grumbled through my

snorkel, “about F’n time” the captain looked down at me and said in very broken English, “Only small fish here, you need go over there 400 meter, big fish there”

I had met Santiago, think it was Luis actually, who was born in the bilge of a Mexican panga and been fishing the local waters since then!

I didn’t argue, I got in the boat and said, “let’s go”!

Without electronics or even looking up from the brim of his hat, Santiago motored me off shore a way and then said, “Get In !!” I did so and within seconds of loading my gun was surrounded by a large school of large yellowtail! I dropped down to a whopping 13’, I placed by arrow in a larger of the school and stoned it! This fish later weighed in at 30.5 lbs. But with the harsh competition, I wasn’t ready to rely on this being a winner at the time, so asked Santiago to run be back to where the big fish were again.

I was familiar with the outside pinnacle, but it was rough out there and even with electronics, was not easy to drop on, as was a pin point. But was no problem for Santiago, as once again with no sonar and eyes closed this time, dropped me right on it! I made a dive to about 40’, there were numerous fish milling around me, but there along the bottom in 70’ was my prize! I dropped down from above, took aim and let fly! Whack, a good hit, but not so lucky on the stone shot this time as the fish took off. Also unlike CA, the Yellowtail in San Carlos will head into the rocks, cutting through mono quickly and is why I typically shoot cable when down there. However, on this occasion, I was not and knew I had to keep this fish from getting on the bottom. I started my fight, a tug a war that continued for a good 15 minutes, with me getting to the surface for air only to be drug back down again. Then finally, it appeared to be wearing out and I was able to start pulling him in. As soon as I could, I got a bear hug on him, slipped my hands into the gills and brained him. He was mine!

Naturally, I kept my fish hidden at the weigh in, hoping so desperately to ruin somebody’s day, by pulling it out after they thought the trophy was theirs! But unfortunately, the ice chest wasn’t large enough, and the tail alone was evidence enough that nobody got their hopes up.

Mike Feldman, San Diego FD and reigning champion took Forth with a fish in the low twenties.

Jose Maria Urbalejo, “PEPE” from La Paz, took Third with a 23lbs fish.

AARon Deal, San Diego Free Divers, took Second with a 24 pounder.

And finally, 10 years of watching others walking away with my trophy, I was able to take it back, my fish weighing in at 37.5 pounds.

Despite being a large Yellowtail for the area, the largest ever to win the meet was in 2009, when the mad dentist, Tyson Curtis weighed in a fish at 45lbs!

After the weigh in and group fish photo, we gathered at Chihuahua's Cantina for the awards banquet.

Todd "T'Man" Norell did the honors of awarding the first through fourth place trophies, that he had personally created using spiritual stones, jewels and his never-ending passion and devotion to perfection. (Thank You Todd!)

The winners name is added to the perpetual trophy that is on display at the El Mar Diving Center in San Carlos, MX. Beyond that, only bragging rights and opportunity to berate one's dive buddies till the next year. The real winners are all those that participated, as after the awards, is the raffle! Every diver receives a tickets and long sleeve tournament rash guard that alone is equivalent value to the entry fee. This year over \$5,000 in prizes were raffled off, delighting those that made the journey to partake.

Fish stories and beers flowed into the night, a good time was had by all!

Next year's event will be early April, exact dates will be posted in the newsletter as it gets closer, hope some of you can join us!

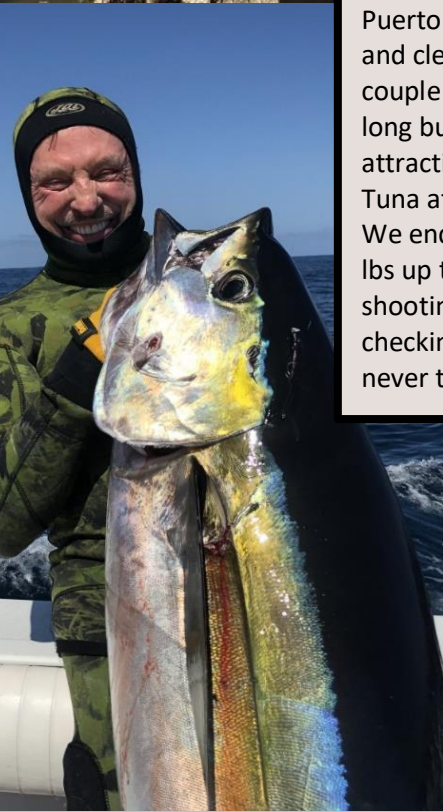
Seamus



Puerto Vallarta



Puerto Vallarta has always been one of my favorite places to dive. The water is almost always warm and clear. Logistically, it's the easiest place to travel for Bluewater Gamefish. The marina is only a couple miles away from the airport, unlike other places which require you to take multiple flights or long bus rides. Large Cayman Crocodiles live in the marina and are quickly becoming a tourist attraction. Recently, one attacked, killed and ate a black Labrador. Currently, there are lots of Yellowfin Tuna at Puerto Vallarta right now. What we did not get in size, we more than made up in quantity. We ended up spearing six fish and caught several dozen more on rod and reel. The fish ranged from 10 lbs up to 80 lbs. The largest fish was 80 lbs, speared by Doug Ulmer. Another boat in the area reported shooting fish in the 120 lb range, so we know that there are bigger fish out there. I took the liberty of checking the stomach of one of the fish and was surprised to see that there was a seahorse in it. I've never thought Tuna would eat those. Mori



The Long Beach Neptunes would like to wish Michael DeGiosa a Happy 50th Birthday !!

May you live a long and happy life !!



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