



Connecting and Informing our Neptune  
Community with:  
Safety, Camaraderie, and Club Legacy  
November 2017



Summer is now in the books. Fall is upon us and delivering quite the bountiful harvest for those us who know where to go & know where to look! Go get em guys & gals!!



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## Attention Members:

We need your help to make the newsletter a monthly success. Need reports, photos, and videos.

The November meeting is going to be an important one. Make sure you show up so you're dialed-in to all Club happenings.

Time keeps on slipping and so do a lot of quality fish for prospective awards. Keep an extra copy of the fish app in your dive gear and have your partners sign it. The year is winding down and there are a ton of awards still available.

This year is the first lobster competition at Spear America. It is an awesome format and Neptunes support will be greatly welcomed. Everyone is a winner. Call Dave Freeman if you want to sign up, or you can do so online.



Presidents Message  
November 2017

And now the year winds down. 2017 has been long and exciting. Amazing memories were built for all of us who challenged ourselves to achieve things, do things, and see things that we have never done or seen before. Some beautiful fish were taken this year - So Cal continues to produce! Thankfully it was a safe year for most, & truly it has been a happy year for Byron & Mori as they appreciate knowing there is much more life to come. And for Ethan, who gave the gift of life and will forever be a hero. As for me, 2017 consisted of some of the most personally challenging days of my life, but also some of the most rewarding. My personal best fish - triple digit yellow fin tuna, then on my first trip after 4 months of healing from both a broken leg and emergency surgery to restore my eyesight, I shot and landed nearly 90 pounds of yellowtail in a 2 hour period. The unexpected adversities I encountered in 2017 helped me understand that I should never take my physical capabilities for granted, especially my ability to see. From here on out I'll always savor the beauty of the ocean realm, the glorious vistas, the skylines of night and day, and the intrinsic delicacy of art coming to life by creation of eye, hand and soul. The best part though is the beauty, the joy and the friendship that emanates from the people I love and care about. Being the President of the Long Beach Neptunes is an honor and a truly enjoyable pursuit for me. I look forward to further contributing my time and energy for the benefit of our club's legacy and for all of my Long Beach Neptunes brothers & sisters, the most sincere and admirable clan I've ever been a part of.

"I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and the light changes, and we change, it's because we all came from the sea. It is an interesting biological fact that within our veins, all of us have the exact same percentage of salt in our blood, that exists in the ocean. We have salt in our blood, in our sweat, and in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. When we go back to the sea - whether it is to sail it, watch it, or become immersed in it - we are going back from whence we came".

~ JFK



Long Life Ahead

Todd Norell

## 2017 Fish Standings

**2016 Calico Derby:** Scott De Firmian 9.5 lbs.

**Biggest Bluefin Tuna (California):** Mark Navas 40.0 lbs

**Calico:** Scott De Firmian 9.5 lbs.

**Biggest Yellowfin Tuna (California):**

**Dorado:**

**Bonito:**

**Biggest Tuna (Out of Country/State):**

**Sheephead:**

**White Sea Bass:** Mike La Riva 69.05 lbs.

**Yellowtail:** Jeff Benedict 36.9 lbs.

**Biggest Pelagic Fish (Non-Tuna) Out of Country/State:** Masahiro Mori 20.5 lbs. Rooster Fish

**Biggest Reef Fish Out of Country/State:**

**Halibut:** Hobie Ladd 16.6 lbs.

**Lobster:**

**Abalone:**

**Kent McIntyre Award:** Joe Prola 46.7 lbs WSB/ 32 lbs YT

John Hughes 40.18 lbs WSB/ 32.96 lbs YT

### Neptunes To Do's:

- Show up to November Meeting 11.1.17!
- Pay for the Christmas Party at the meeting.
- Fall Classic Awards being Announced.
- Board Member positions for 2018 will be voted on at the meeting.
- Important safety discussion that you owe it to yourself not to miss.
- Get your Club T-shirts & Fall Classic hats if you haven't already. There may be some board shorts left too!
- Send me your photos of any successful hunts to (949)945-8930.
- If you'd like your photos on the Neptunes website submit your photos to Brandon. Make sure you choose the option to downsize the pictures' file size.



## A MESSAGE FROM MORI

Fellow Neptune's,

I wanted to thank the club for their support during my transplant surgery. I want everyone to know that both Ethan and I are recovering well and feeling stronger and stronger each day. It was great to see all the guys who came to visit me in the hospital. It'll be a while before we're ready to get back in the water. I look forward to diving with you guys again.



Me and my Best Friend Ethan

I have polycystic kidney, which is a hereditary disease that I inherited from my mother. It's something that causes your kidneys to grow a bunch of cysts until your kidney shuts down requiring dialysis. People who have known me for a long time saw me getting weaker and weaker throughout the years, until my kidneys eventually shut down. Dialysis is a bad. Every couple days they stick these giant needles in your arm to filter the blood of toxic waste so you don't die. It's like almost dying and being revived by a lifesaving machine every couple days. It really takes a toll on your body and whatever active lifestyle you may have had is gone. I've been on the transplant list for 2 years, but the list is about 10 yrs. long. Not enough donor kidneys out there. I guess most people are unwilling to check that little organ donor box on their driver's license.

After a year of Dialysis, Ethan Smith, my fellow Neptune brother, offered to donate one of his kidneys to me. This is the greatest gift a person can give another. Ethan is a true hero and I am eternally grateful to him for saving my life. Ethan was not a direct kidney match, so I could not receive his kidney directly, so we entered a paired matching program where they find a match for me and a match for Ethan's kidney. Ethan's kidney went to a girl in Wisconsin. I got mine from a guy named Clark, who lives here in L.A. Clark is an autonomous donor, which is a donor who is donating a kidney without receiving one in exchange. He told me that he felt that he could save someone's life by giving up one of his own kidneys. In this world full of mass shootings, hate and violence, I find it inspirational that there are people like Clark in this world. It renews my faith in humanity. The life he saved was mine.



This is My Donor Clark - A True Saint of a Man

Ethan and I are doing well. Ethan had a bit more post-operative complication as a result of constipation due to strong pain killers. It really hurt to watch your best friend in agony. I was freaked out to see one of his body parts swelled up like an eggplant! I saw him on Friday and I'm relieved to see that he is doing well and on his way to full recovery.



Me and My Hero



Recovering

I am now recovering in Santa Barbara at fellow Neptune, John Johnston's house. I have always been independent and thought that I could recover on my own, but now that I went through this, I would have never been able to do it if it wasn't for the generosity and help of John and Pam Johnston. I will be eternally grateful. They were

there at a time of need. I have never been this helpless before. They are true family. John is also helping me keep track of all the new drugs I need to take. Its way more complicated than I could have figured out on my own. I'm being spoiled right now with gourmet homemade meals and constant attention. I'm really going to miss all this pampering once I'm on my own again.



The New Meds I Now Have to Take

Right now, I have never been more proud of being a Neptune. The people here are my true family. They helped me at a time of need, saved my life and made sure that I will recover and stay that way. The people in this club are the best slice of society there is, and I am truly proud to be a part of it.



I hope to see you guys in the water real soon.

Mori



### *Magic of the Pearl*

*Due to its elegance and beauty, the pearl has been associated through the ages with the “matrix of life” itself. Born from the womb of the earth mother's greatest gift, the gift of water. The ancients said that the pearl helped to balance the human body's natural rhythms and aided one in the expectation of great peace and happiness. Pearls, especially the Black, were known to the early Polynesians as "the guardian stone", based on its intrinsic energy, known to protect its owner from harm, especially when worn in the form of a chain. To this day, a chain, a ring . . . a string of pearls is a traditional object of beauty, protecting all it surrounds. And now you know . . . The Pearl, this is why we are intrigued by them, this is why we seek them, and this is why we give them, to those we love.*







**2017**

**LONG BEACH NEPTUNES**

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY - DECEMBER 2, 2017**



**KING HARBOR YACHT CLUB  
280 YACHT CLUB WAY - REDONDO BEACH, CA**

**COCKTAILS & REFRESHMENTS ~ 6:30 PM  
DINNER ~ 7:00 PM**

**COST IS \$35 PER PERSON (\$70 PER COUPLE)**

**NO HOST BAR**

**PAY BILL PERATT AT THE NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING OR VIA PAYPAL AT  
LBNEPTUNESPAYMENT@GMAIL.COM**

## *Anacapa Epic*

*by Jesse Goode*



On the night of the fall classic, I towed my friend Mac Bullock's boat up to Oxnard. My froth levels were overflowing. We had been checking reports all week and Catalina looked really barren with SCI having a lot of closures. My crew consisted of myself, Mac Bullock, Brooke Basse & Mikey from Neptonic. Our plan was to plug fish in the early AM, jet back to Oxnard, drive our trucks to Long Beach and hop on Brooke & Clark McNulty's rib to make the weigh-in.

We set a course for Anacapa Island at around 1:30 am. Once we arrived it felt like the lobster were going to be crawling everywhere. I jumped in and it was pretty shut down, just a few stragglers milling about. So, we set out for our high spot & began to prep for our sunrise dive. Mac & I slipped in. About 10 minutes into the dive, I look up & see Mac already on the boat lowering a slug into the kill bag. I freaked the "F" out and swam to the spot where he was at. As soon as I got there, I tossed my flasher immediately, let it sink & punched a dive. As soon as I look up I see a wall of Yellowtail ~ probably an 80 to 100 fish school. An outside bruiser swam right up to my gun & I pulled the trigger. I saw my shaft completely puncture & knew I had a good shot. I was hunting with a fathom spear gun with a float line & no float. Pulled him in pretty quickly but then realized I dropped my flasher during the fight. With fish in hand, I dove down & grabbed my precious flasher. I then looked to my right to see a pair of tanker Black Sea Bass circling the scene of the crime. I put a death grip on my fish & boned out real quick. As soon as I surfaced I hollered out a loud hoot & swam for the boat.

Mac & Myself got our fish on the boat – fully stoked & pumped. At that point I didn't want to be "that guy" to tell our friends we're outta here because of the weigh-in. You can't leave fish! Everyone deserves a shot when there's big schools like that breezing through. As I chilled out while the others were hunting I looked up at the island & savored the beauty of its structure. I knew I then had to go after some Bugs. We all got our limit and good ol' Mac snipped another nice Yellow just for good measure.

We all experience "Those Days" from time to time . . . & that's why I Love Spearfishing. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Jesse Goode – October 2017

## 2017 FALL CLASSIC



The 2017 Long Beach Neptunes Fall Classic went off without a hitch on October 14, 2017. The weather was looking dicey early in the week with small craft advisories, 20+ knot winds and formidable swells in the forecast. Pre-announced closures at San Clemente Island made several competitors rethink their strategies. Especially the Sea Hunt who got an early wake up call from fleet command. Santa Barbara island proved to be productive for the captains and crew of the Sebasstard. Donny's brother shot his first yellowtail and they got several fish & lots of bugs. But, in the end, who would have expected, that all the podium fish would come from good old Catalina. As it turned out, the weather cooperated after all. It was warm and mostly sunny for the event. Not everyone scored, but once the weigh-in began and the BBQ was blazing, we all realized why we join these



*events ~ to enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow Neptunes. The raffle was super fun with lots of goodies including a bunch of one of a kind inlaid art pieces that made their way into the lucky hands of smiling faces. The “new” venue behind the general store worked out great. The cost for the club there is right and it allows us to bring in the catered grub and keep the beer & drinks flowing, just like old times. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to the victors, especially Mr. Todd Fahrquar – 2017 Long Beach Neptunes Fall Classic Champion!*

## **THE RESULTS**

### *Largest Fish Category*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place with 20.45 lb Yellowtail, Todd Farquhar*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 20.35 lb Yellowtail, Juan Aguilar*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place with 19.65 lb Yellowtail, Bill Peratt*

*4<sup>th</sup> Place with a 19.10 lb. Yellowtail, Gregory Brule*

*Honorable Mention: Robert Strohbach with 7.2 lb Bonita*

### *Calico Bass Category*

*1<sup>st</sup> place with 3.95 lb Calico Bass, Dave Freeman*

### *Lobster Category*

*1st place with 3.8 lb Lobster, Donny Harris*



2017 LBN Fall Classic  
BBQ and Raffle







2017 LBN Fall Classic  
BBQ and Raffle







**THIS IS WHAT A LBN FALL CLASSIC CHAMPION LOOKS LIKE**



**THIS IS WHAT A LBN FALL CLASSIC CHAMPION EATS.  
YES – THAT IS A ROBUST COMPILATION OF RIBEYE,  
JALAPENO, AND HABANERO.**

**CONGRATS TODD!**

*2018 Long Beach Neptunes  
Board Elections – November 1, 2017*

There will be a formalized voting process for some of the key Board Member positions for 2018 held during our club meeting at Me & Eds Pizza on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Every Current Full Member and Life Members will be allowed to cast a ballot. Ballots will be individually distributed, one per member, at the club meeting for fill-out and hand-back to the Recording Secretary. They will be officially tallied and the victors announced thereafter. Here are the positions we will be voting on with the candidates indicated below each:

*PRESIDENT*

*Todd Norell*

*Jeff Bilhorn*

*RECORDING SECRETARY*

*Dave Freeman*

*Harry Ingram*

*Will Withers*

*TENTATIVE MANAGER*

*Bruce Dardis*

*Hobie Ladd*

*Scott DeFirmian*

*Jason Taylor*

*Uncontested Positions for 2018 (NO VOTE)*

*VICE PRESIDENT – Mike Marsh*

*TREASURER – Bill Peratt*

*NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Lou Rosales*

*CLUB HISTORIAN (PERPETUAL) – Masahiro Mori*

*CONSERVATION LIASON (PERPETUAL) – Terry Maas*

# Tales of Tails

## *The word of Baja*

By Dan Silveira

During our drive down to Central Baja California, my friend, Al Schnepershoff, told me stories of shooting amazing fish in shallow water. One of them being about shooting a 91 pound broomtail grouper. Basically, they left the harbor at 8:30am on route to a remote island 18 miles from the dock. During the one hour boat ride, he prepped his gear and enjoyed the calm flat seas. Upon approaching the dive spot, the sun on his back was plenty of encouragement to suit up quickly and get into the water. Ten feet from the boat and only five minutes after loading his gun, the massive grouper appeared in front of him. Al made a ten foot dive and let the shaft fly. With his years of experience shooting fish, he placed a perfect shot rolling the fish over. "Stoned" he yelled to the boat driver as he pulled his prized fish up to the boat. At this point in his story I said "ya right", but the story was true and Al had photos to prove it! Every baja restaurant we stopped at to eat had photos of Al, either with massive grouper, white seabass, or yellowtail. He is a legend in Mexico, and this got me all fired-up about potentially shooting a world record fish!



Al has been leading spearfishing tours down to Baja for the past five years and in the short amount of time he has had 20 divers shoot their first white seabass, over 30 divers shoot their first yellowtail, 70 divers shoot personal best fish, and to top it all off, his spots have produced five IUSA world records!





Finally after diving for two long days, we arrived at our hotel. I quickly unpacked my stuff and asked Al if he could take me out for a short shore dive. After all, we needed some fish for dinner. Without a flinch, he said, "you read my mind, lets go." Driving past fish camps and several huts build out of driftwood, I was able to see his secret spot where the desert met the Pacific Ocean. He told me that the diving would be shallow, warm and loaded with fish. I swam out to about 15 feet of water and immediately, I was greeted by a school of 20 or more yellowtail. Most of them were small, so I watched to see if anything bigger was around. Once the school started swimming away, I decided that a small fish was better than no fish. I lined up a shot on a ten pound yellowtail when suddenly it bolted. I looked in the opposite direction and a 35 pounder was coming straight for the tip of my gun. I placed a good shot and the fight began. Handling a hot game fish in ten feet of water is not an easy task. I did everything possible to keep the fish off the bottom, and at one point I was seriously losing the battle. The fish went under a ledge and was destroying my thin euro shaft. I dove down and bear hugged the fish when I had the chance. Already this shore dive was becoming a victory.

During my battle with that yellowtail, I had seen several white seabass jet by at the edge of visibility. After I strung the fish on my belt, I reloaded my gun and made a dive at the edge of the reef. I used my Sporasub Sea Green wetsuit to blend in with the eel grass and waited. One minute into my dive I could see a massive school milling around in the sand. At 1:30 minutes, the school decided it was time to check me out. White seabass from 20 to 40 pounds were drifting by like a river stacked five fish deep and as far as the eye could see in either direction. I lined up on the closest fish and placed a clean shot. The slip-tip penetrated under the gill plate and out the upper lip. Virtually there was no hole in the fish, which translated into a great fight with only a reel on my gun. ZZZZZZZZ ripped my reel as the fish took off towards deeper water. After 80 feet of line was stripped from my reel, the fish got tired and I pulled it up. The fish ended up weighing 34 pounds. At that point, it was time to call it a day, but as soon as I started swimming in, I saw a school of burrito grunts, the tell tale sign of a potential grouper spot. I re-loaded my gun just in time to see a nice broomtail grouper. I stoned the fish with a perfect headshot, and that sealed the deal as one of the best shore diving days in my life!!!



The next day, Al told me that we were going to go out to the same island, which he had speared his 91 pound grouper, from the story during the ride down. I was so excited I could hardly handle the one hour boat ride. As soon as we got there, the bait was busying the surface like I had never seen before. Miles of blue water was teeming with billions of sardines. I told the boat captain to stop the boat so I could jump in for a look. We were in about 200 feet of water, so I dove down to 50 feet where I could level out and assess the situation. It felt like the seas were parting as I kicked through layer and layer of thick bait. The fish had engulfed me and the light from above was fading towards darkness when suddenly the bait below me vanished! My senses went into hyper alert, I strained my eyes to the edge of visibility, and materializing from the depths came several massive yellowtail, rushing straight towards me. I extended my new O.M.E.R 115cm Enclosed Track gun and shot the biggest fish of the group. About ten seconds after, a huge sea lion came bolting in to take my fish. I released all tension of the drag to my reel and let the fish run. Luckily, the yellowtail was much faster and I eventually had the last laugh as I grabbed the fish and watched the sea lion swim away with frustration. As I was getting back in the boat with my fish in tow, Al was grinning from ear to ear as he said; "looks like you got the skunk off the boat." Now it was time to look for grouper.



Al told me that if I wanted to shoot a 100 pound plus broomtail grouper without the fish diving deep into the caves, I would either have to either place a perfect shot, or shoot the fish away from the rocks in the sand. Since I had left all my backup shafts in the truck, I opted to hunt the sand. Dive after dive, I saw silhouettes of big grouper near the rocks. I did everything in my power to lure them from the rocks. I threw sand, grunted, pulled long 2 minute dives, but nothing worked for me. Just as I finally gave up, I looked to my right, and I saw a massive divot, an indentation, from a huge halibut. When I surfaced, I yelled to Al. "Have you ever seen halibut here"? He replied "No". I said, "I am about to change that, because I just saw a massive halibut divot"!!! Three dives later I spotted what ended up being one of the largest California halibut of all time. The fish spooked quickly and I struggled to line up a good shot on the flat undulating fish. Finally the halibut lifted its head, about 15 feet away from my speargun tip. This was my decisive moment when I had to pull the trigger. This was not a shot I had ever practiced before, so I let my instincts do the job. Fortunately, I placed a debilitating shot on the fish, but I could see that the slip tip was barely poking through the halibut's bottom gill plate. I yelled to Jeremy, another diver on the trip, and asked him if I could use his gun for a second shot. I unloaded his 3 band gun and reloaded it myself, as per the IUSA record regulations, and finished the job on what ended up being a 21<sup>st</sup> century IUSA World Record California halibut at 51 pounds!!!



Never in my life did I expect Al's baja fairytale stories to become a reality for me also. This place was like the Garden of Eden and the day had only started. We ended up shooting a few more yellowtail and it was time to look for some white seabass. We moved the boat to a thick kelp bed where the visibility was only about 15 feet. I made several dives spotting large yellowtail at the edge of the kelp, so I swam over to shoot some video. I made a dive to 30 feet and just as I stopped to clear my ears, a gigantic ghost materialized only 10 feet below me. I turned my Liquid Image camera on, hit the record button, and lined my speargun tip right behind its head. I pulled the trigger and the fish exploded, creating a loud tail boom that could be heard by all the divers in the area. Somehow I managed to keep the fish from tangling in the kelp by holding on for the ride, dogging kelp stringers, and managing my reel line at the same time. At one point I was pulled past one of the other divers, and noticed that he was lining up on the fish and about to take a shot. At first he did not notice that the fish was speared, so I grunted at him and smiled as I passed by. This was a classic and funny moment that could only happen when hunting in murky water. I had hoped that the swollen belly would amount to a heavy weight, but it was only the air bladder. If it had been a female, it would have broken the 70 pound mark due to the added weight of roe. The fish ended up weighing 62 pounds with a length of 58 inches but only had a girth of 27 inches. At this point it was a perfect time to call it a day.



It is stories like these that I had always dreamt of experiencing. From books and magazine articles, youtube videos and DVD's, the epic fairytales of legendary divers who had epic days kept me looking for that special day. Finally it happened to me and I had broken the 100 pound mark of two different species of California game fish speared in one day. A 51 pound halibut plus a 62 pound white seabass. To top it all off I managed to spear a yellowtail over 40 pounds also. While this was not achieved in California, it is still an accomplishment that I am super stoked about, and hopefully it will become a story that will motivate everyone who is reading this article.



Till the next adventure,

Dan Silveira

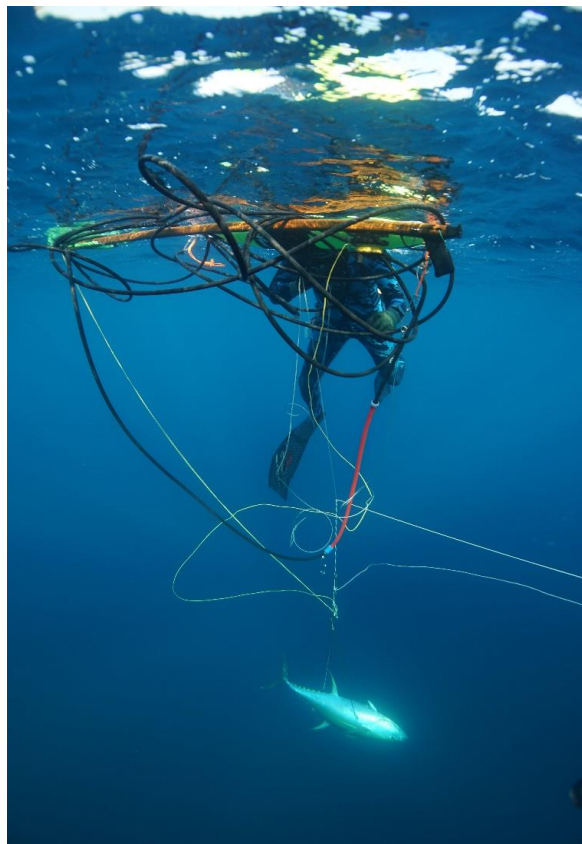
[www.spearfishingisnotacrime.com](http://www.spearfishingisnotacrime.com)



## LINE TANGLEMENT SAFETY

Anything that impedes a spearfisherman's ability to get to the surface can be deadly. One of the hidden dangers in spearfishing is becoming the victim of line tangles, particularly after fish have been speared and the excitement starts. One should always be cognizant of the following guidelines:

1. The line you are most likely to get tangled up in is your own! For big fish always use an appropriate float line or bungee that positively floats, and therefore reduces the potential for knots and snags. A breakaway system is the safest.
2. With float lines, always consider the length of your float line for the diving conditions/depths you are in. If you are drifting along shallow reefs, you can afford to have a shorter float line which is considerably more manageable.
3. The period after a fish has been speared is when you are most at risk. Be aware that any activity rapidly burns oxygen. If you are fighting a fish towards the surface, don't fight it from depth, give up rope, and try to get to the surface as soon as possible, where your buoyancy will be an advantage. Be careful. Even small fish, particularly if they have been speared towards the tail, can be deceptively strong and can pull you under water a lot longer than you are expecting.



## LINE TANGLEMENT SAFETY (continued)

4. Be particularly careful not to get tangled up while trying to fight fish to the surface. Also be aware that even though the fish may be small, a shark, sea lion, or other large predator may take your speared fish and drag you down along with it so be careful about wrapping the line around your hand to gain leverage. Watch for buildup of line around you and/or around your fins.
5. Always use a knife when you dive, a sharp easily accessible knife could well prevent problems one day. And ensure that the knife is accessible with either hand. The hand you may ordinarily use for your dive knife, might well be the hand that is caught in your float line.
6. Be particularly vigilant when diving with a reel gun. Dynema or spectra type lines are far more prone to becoming tangled than is the thicker and more rigid propylene float line or mono shooting line. It is also not uncommon for a reel to become snagged with the line after shooting a big fish, if this happens discard the gun and swim to the surface. There are plenty more fish in the sea.
7. Always use a quick release weight belt. And always put the belt on the same way, with a right hand quick release, so that you can get rid of your weightbelt quickly and instinctively. You should always treat anything on your weightbelt as disposable so should consider putting your diving knife elsewhere.
8. When you shoot a fish, ALWAYS consider taking it directly to the boat or to shore.
9. Clipping or harnessing a dead or bleeding fish to your weight belt or your body with a cord, line or stringer can be very hazardous, especially if a sea lion or shark takes interest in what he may sense is easy prey. The likelihood of entanglement increases dramatically when fighting a fish while one or more others are lashed to your body. At a minimum consider tethering your shot fish to your float and then trail that as close or far as you choose.

*Dive Safe*

*No Fish is Worth Your Life*

# COMING SOON

TO A PIZZA PARLOUR NEAR YOU

Me & Eds Pizza to be exact  
4115 Paramount Blvd.  
Lakewood, CA 90712

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

A Power Point Safety Presentation  
starring  
Mr. Seamus Callaghan

PREVENTING  
SHALLOW WATER BLACKOUT

This may be the most important meeting you ever attend. The tragedy of SWB is real. Take it seriously, understand what it is, educate yourself to avoid it. Hope to see you there.



# 1ST ANNUAL SPEAR AMERICA MONSTER BUG OFF



**\$30 buy-in for a new tee shirt and a season's worth of chances to win. Info below!  
Plus – entrants receive VIP entry to the Spear America private party!**

*Here are all the details of the First Spear America Monster Bug-off: \$30 buy-in gets you a ticket and the new Spear America series California Lobster shirt valued at \$27.95. Your ticket will be entered to 5 raffles one every month of lobster season for a chance to win a \$75 Spear America gift certificate. Largest lobster of the month will win a \$150 Spear America gift certificate. Largest lobster of season will win \$500 CASH. All contestants will be invited to the end of the season Spear America private party. You either have to weigh your lobster at a Spear America location or take video of the lobster with its weight with a witness. - No hookah, hoop netting, or scuba. This is a freediving only contest. Dive safely and have fun!!! Lobsters can be released at your discretion.*

## Mermaid Knife Series

Some of you Neptunes have asked me about these custom made fillet knife scabbards. I am currently creating a series, each portrays the image of the Mermaid. Two are completed, 4 to go. They take many hours to make. These 4 remaining will be available for purchase. Each scabbard is one of a kind, handcrafted from billets of Honduran Rosewood. The knife that the scabbard accepts with fluid grace is the Victorinox 12" Cimenter with Granton edge and Rosewood handle. This is the finest and most badass big game fillet knife in the world today. Cutting with this knife is said to be like cutting air. Each of these scabbards are inlaid with sacred stone, compounds revered by the ancients as having spiritually protective properties – materials like Crushed Amethyst, Abalone Shell, Fire Opals, Tahitian Black Pearls, Amber, Lapis Lazuli, Malachite, Snowflake Oyster Shell, Sleeping Beauty Turquoise, Sulphur Crystal, Tourmaline, Azurite, Labradorite, and Topaz to name a few. Ask Mike Marsh if he likes his. Just let me know if you have interest.



*The mesmerizing form of the ever elusive Mermaid. Alluring, revered, and sometimes feared, maritime lore is replete with her legend. The mermaid is known to be a protector, a seeker, and a psychic messenger existing on the level of the astral plane within the earth mother's greatest gift, the gift of water. Dreams in which she appears are a sign that one must pay more attention to intuition and instinctive feelings. In the metaphysical realm, the mermaid represents the emergence of emotional strength and deep knowingness in one's eternal quest . . . for the happiness yet to come.*

# OKATIN

AMERICA'S SURF CO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time to recognize a great company that's helping us out. They are producing our Club T's, Bluewater T's, and these amazing Neptune boardies. They donated a bunch of hats , t-shirts, and pins for the club auction. So if you need any other gear, look no further. In addition, they are offering an exclusive deal for the Neptunes. Shop at [Katinusa.com](http://Katinusa.com) and use promo code NEPTUNES25 for 25% off of your order. Still not to late to get a pair of boardies for the winter ask Jesse Goode how to get them.







## **Attention Tentative Members/Sponsors of Tentative Members/Members!**

**Tentatives: If you haven't already, make sure you go around at meetings and introduce yourselves to all of the members. I know it's tough to remember so many faces and names, but members want to know who you are, so put yourselves out there and say hello. And remember, every effort you make with assisting / helping out during meetings and events will be noticed, and much appreciated.**

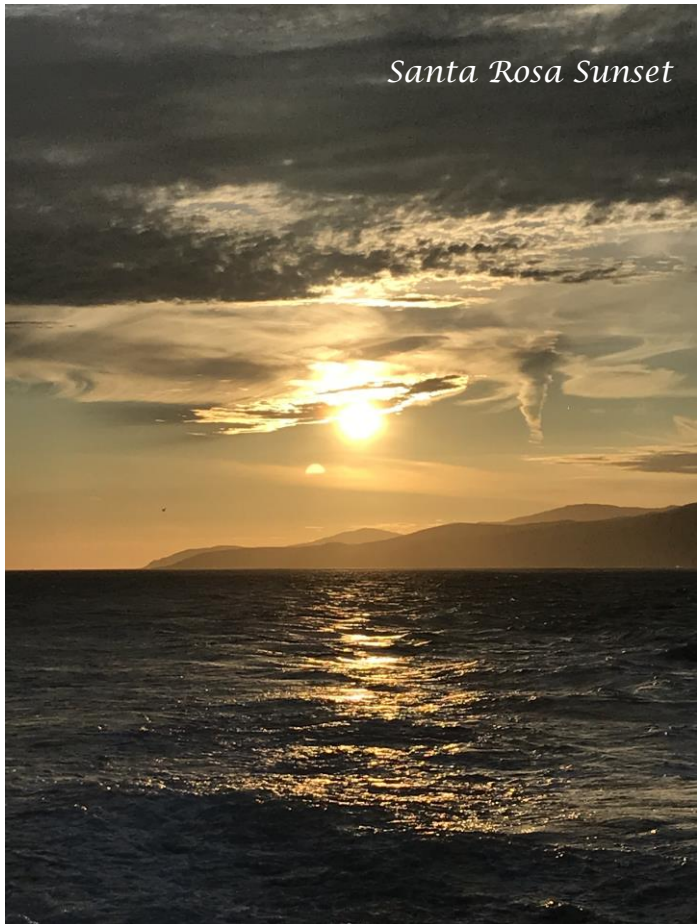


*"They Sicken of the Calm,  
Who knew the Storm"*

*Legends ~  
of the Fall*

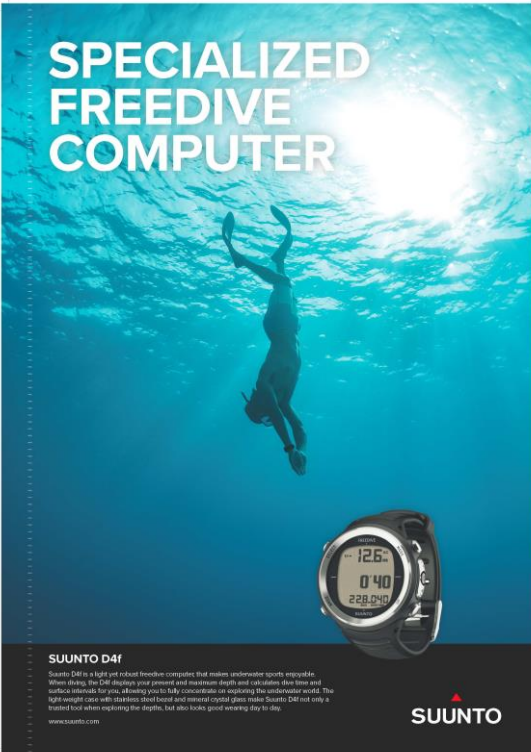


*Octobers Gift*



*Santa Rosa Sunset*





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