

THE
TRIDENT

A SPEARFISHING NEWSLETTER



PHOTO: RICHARD HERRMANN/MINDEN PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES



OCTOBER 2020 • ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 70

2020 Board Members

President

Jeff Benedict
562-743-5442
dive4sanity@gmail.com

Ex-Presidio

Jeff Bilhorn
949-230-5698
jeff.bilhorn@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor

Eric Bodjanac
805-231-4017
bodjanace@gmail.com

Vice President

Will Withers
760-522-4542
wjlw0603@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Ivan Sanchez
310-934-3581
chiroisanchez@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jon McMullen
562-810-7188
jonathan.d.mcmullen@gmail.com

Club Historian

Paul Byrd
949-500-1459
pbyrd@argosx.com

Tentative Manager

Hobie Ladd
562-607-5579
lbwallbangr@gmail.com

Conservation Liaison

Terry Maas
805-642-7856
tmaas@west.net

The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a non-profit organization. The Trident is published monthly and is provided free of charge to the members of the Long Beach Neptunes and associates.



- October 3rd- Lobster Opener (6am)
- October 7th- Meeting
- **October 10th- FALL CLASSIC**
- November 4th- Meeting
- December 2nd- Meeting
- December 5th- Christmas Party
- December 25th- Merry Christmas!

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby	Open
Calico Bass (Scott Defirmian)	10.1 lbs
White Seabass (John Hughes)	68 lbs
Yellowtail (Lyle Davis)	49 lbs
Halibut (Todd Farquhar)	18.6 lbs
Sheephead (Jeff Benedict)	21.66 lbs
Bonito	Open
Barracuda	Open
Dorado	Open
Wahoo	Open
Bluefin Tuna (Josh Wels)	138.1 lbs
Marlin	Open
Lobster (Hobie Ladd)	11.2 lbs

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna	Open
Reef Fish (Mike De Giosa)	47 lb Cubera

Kent McIntyre Award

(John Hughes) 68 lb WSB + 36.4 lb YT = 104.4lbs
(Lyle Davis) 50.84 lb WSB + 49 lb YT = 102.8 lbs
(Jeff Bilhorn) 58 lb WSB (boat weight 55.1)
(Paul Zylstra) 38 lbs WSB
(Tod Norell) 33.2 lb YT
(Mike Marsh) 29 lb YT

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

(Josh Wels, Bluefin Tuna) 138.1 lbs

B U S I N E S S



PRESIDENTS LETTER

JEFF BENEDICT

Happy Fall to my Neptune Brothers and Sisters!

Lobster season is upon us. Time to recharge your lights, mend your bags and start scouring your favorite honey holes. This season also brings to mind all the Fall trips to Baja chasing Wahoo. Last year I was introduced to home canned Wahoo on one of our prepared boat lunches. AMAZING! Enough so that I came home, bought a pressure cooker/ jars and went to work. I highly recommend it! There's still no "in house" dining at our beloved Me-n-Ed's. With the Holiday season just around the corner....and our inability to gatherthe opportunity of a 2020 Auction is fading. We may end up passing our donations to the 2021 Board for one huge kick ass event!! God knows we need one !!

Speaking of 2021.....start thinking of which Board position YOU want to hold! Jeff Bilhorn, Byron and Steve Parkford are our 2021 Nominating Committee. Now is the time to put your team together, or volunteer individually. VOTING TAKES PLACE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING of the general membership.

THE CALENDAR WAITS FOR NO ONE !! So here comes the 2020 Fall Classic!

1. New weigh in time is 5pm SHARP
2. Two Harbors Fuel Dock. Same procedure as the BWM. Hand off your catch in a LABELED fish or strong trash bag. No contestants on the dock. WINNERS will join us on the dock for photos.
3. Trophies for largest fish 1st thru 4th, largest Calico and largest Lobster.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Salty Crew has stoked all winners with either a Long Range Duffel bag or a Covert Roll Top Bag AND a \$250 gift card for the 1st Place Largest Fish Winner!! A big thank you to Salty Crew for their gracious donation!

FALL CLASSIC WHITE T-SHIRT with custom design by Lucky included with each entry. BONUS!! We have printed the same design on Light Grey HOODIES and on Light Grey Long Sleeve polyester sun protection shirts. Information on how to purchase within this newsletter.





Saturday, October 10th, 2020
Two Harbors Fuel Dock
5PM Weigh-in

www.longbeachneptunes.com
for entry form and details

ATTENTION!!!



Saturday, October 10th, 2020
Two Harbors Fuel Dock
5PM Weigh-in

A white short sleeve t shirt (A on page below) is included with in each entry fee. If you would like to purchase additional apparel please send payment to LBNeptunesPayment@gmail.com by 10/7/20. You must include which article(s) of clothing you'd like (A, B, or C- see next page which includes pricing), the quantity, and the size. Ensure your math is correct and send via
FRIENDS AND FAMILY

A



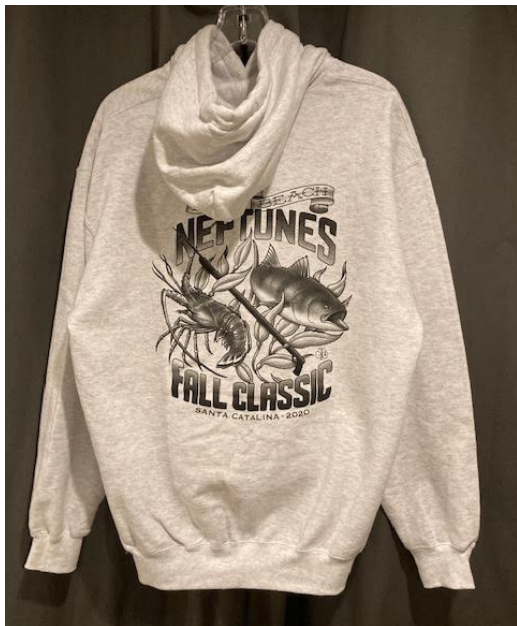
\$15

B



\$20

C



\$25

VIRTUAL MEETING

10/7/20

ZOOM Meeting ID: 897 7805 7379

Password: 121834



I AM HONORED TO INTRODUCE
COLLEEN GALLAGHER AT OUR
OCTOBER MEETING. COLLEEN
EMBODIES HERE PASSION FOR
BOTH SPEARFISHING AND
HELPING OTHERS THROUGH
HERE CHARITABLE WORK AT
DIVING FOR A CAUSE!



SALTY - CREW - 40 %
DISCOUNT
"LBNEPTUNES40"





FEATURED DIVER

ETHAN SMITH

My love affair with the ocean began when my father's Naval enlistment took my family to Guam when I was 6 years old. Warm, clear water, tropical fish, living reefs and war detritus were more than enough to fire my imagination, enrapture and imprint upon my young mind. The ocean was largely out of reach for the majority of my late youth growing up south of Portland, Oregon but the hook, while dormant, was well set. I made the most of the local rivers, streams, woods and mountains all the while nurturing my dreams of warm water, diving and sailing.

I was PADI certified the summer I graduated high school, while studying and volunteering at the Virgin Island Ecological Research Station in Lameshur Bay in Saint John, USVI. Hours were spent underwater every day doing the leg-work for a base-line ecological study for the U. S. Park Service. I was in heaven and could have stayed forever!

Southern California became my reality in 1990 when I relocated here after graduating college. I was living in a rented room in a house in Palos Verdes Estates and exploring the kelp forests with a mask and snorkel when I began to hear stories of local spear fishermen and big fish. Hmmm.... In 1993 I moved closer to the water when my first sailboat became my "house" and I bought my first speargun - a JBL .38 Special. I spent a few years diving by myself off the boat at Catalina in search of dinner and adventure. As it happened, Eric Schlobohm had a boat on the same gangway in Marina del Rey. Having grown up in Malibu, he was far more dialed in than I was.

We became friends, many of his friends also became mine and one of the results was my introduction to the Long Beach Neptunes. I started attending meetings in ~1996 making additional friends and swimming up the learning curve. One of the first people I met in the club was Mori and he's been one of my best friends ever since. He was making guns as a hobby at the time and was kind enough to help me make the first of several guns. Mori also took me on my first "blue water" spearfishing trip - a day trip to Santa Barbara Island and I remember it vividly. The viz was a blue 60' and BIG yellow tail were breezing through the Sutil channel. I and my .38 Special got skunked despite several shots, but swimming among those fish was like seeing the face of God for me. I was hooked! Around the same time, Mori asked if I wanted to join the club and offered to be my sponsor and thus began what has proved to be one of the most significant and enjoyable facets of my adult life.

I was voted into the club in 1998. Improvement in my diving and hunting came fast, but how could it not among such skilled company? At meetings I soaked in the lore of the first and second generation Blue Water Hunters, while spending most of my free time diving locally and doing my first trips to Mexico by truck and air. It's impossible to remember everyone specifically, but I'm grateful to have shared my early days in the water in the company of, among others: Mori, Eric Schlobohm, Larry Heinrich, John Johnston, Jim Matsukas, Robert Strohbach, Michael DeGiosa,



FEATURED DIVER



RICHARD BALTA, SEAMUS CALLAGHAN, RICK BAE, DAN BELL, STEVE MADRID, BRUCE GAUDINO, LYLE DAVIS, JOHN CARPENTER, DOUG ULMER, PHIL POLANCO, PHIL ALLEY AND MARTY GETRICH. WHAT FUN! IT'S A SHAME THAT IT IS SO HARD FOR ONE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THESE WILL BE "THE GOOD OLD DAYS" WHILE THEY ARE HAPPENING.

WHETHER ACCESSED OVER THE BEACH, BY PANGA OR SAIL OR POWER BOAT, TO ME FREEDIVING IS THE BEST WAY YET TO ACCESS REAL WILDERNESS AND SEE A HINT OF WHAT THE WORLD LOOKED LIKE WHEN IT WAS CREATED. IT'S ALSO THE ONLY WAY FOR THOSE OF US WITHOUT A ROCKET TO VISIT ANOTHER PLANET. WHEN I REFLECT ON THE MAGIC OF MY UNDER-WATER EXPERIENCES: TOP TO BOTTOM YELLOWFIN SWIMMING BY FOR 15 MINUTES, WHALE SHARK RIDES, SCHOOLS OF YELLOWTAIL AND WHITE SEABASS AMONG THE FLOWING KELP, MARLIN AND SAILFISH CRASHING BAIT, WAHOO GLIDING THROUGH GIN CLEAR WATER, SWIMMING SOLO WITH HUMPBACKS IN 20' OF WATER, JUMPING A BLUE WHALE... I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'D HAVE LIKELY MISSED MOST OF THEM WERE IT NOT FOR THE CONFIDENCE AND SKILL I'VE GAINED BY DIVING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.

I WAS ABSENT FROM THE CLUB FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS BEGINNING IN 2009. THE BEST REASON WAS A 5-YEAR 17,000 MILE WANDER FROM MEXICO TO PANAMA AND BACK IN MY 40' ALUMINUM SAILBOAT, "EYONI" (SEE TRIDENT, MARCH, 2009; WOW, THAT WAS A LOT OF ADVENTURE, DIVING AND HUNTING!); THE WORST WAS A DIVORCE AND MOVE INLAND. I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE BACK ON THE COAST AGAIN, ENJOYING THE CLUB AND REGULARLY.

FEATURED DIVER



OVER MY 22 YEARS IN THE CLUB I'VE SERVED ON THE BOARD AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR THREE TIMES (1999, 2000 AND 2003) AND SPENT A BUNCH OF YEARS AS MORI'S SOUS CHEF FOR THE DRAGON STEW, OCCASIONALLY STRETCHING OUT AND ADDING UNIQUE FLAVORS OF MY OWN. WHILE I'VE NEVER YET MANAGED TO DO BETTER THAN DOWN-PLACE FINISHES AT DIVE MEETS, I HAVE HAD PRETTY GOOD CONTEST RESULTS OTHERWISE, HAVING TAKEN HOME TROPHIES FOR THE CALICO DERBY, LARGEST WHITE SEABASS, BIG FISH IN COUNTRY, KENT MCINTYRE AWARD AND KING NEPTUNE (#47). I WAS DEEPLY HONORED TO HAVE BEEN MADE A LIFE MEMBER AND BE NAMED MR. NEPTUNE IN 2017.

MY THANKS GOES OUT TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CLUB, PAST AND PRESENT, FOR SHARING THEIR PASSION, WISDOM AND FRIENDSHIP OVER THE YEARS. YOUR COMRADESHIP HAS SMOOTHED A FEW BUMPS, MADE MY LIFE FAR RICHER, MUCH TASTIER AND IMMEASURABLY MORE FUN. CON GUSTO AMIGOS!



The lucky hat adventures went down in 2015 a few months after I had my first child, my son EZ. I'll preface this by saying I'm a firm believer that God is the giver of all good things (including white seabass). With that being said, come seabass time I get a little superstitious about a few things regardless of my beliefs. To bring the fish bag or not is right up there with what hat I'm going to wear. Almost 2 months back I took some time off to take advantage of the Family Leave Act which actually pays a new father 6 weeks to bond with his child. You can take the time anywhere in the first year from when he was born. The state of CA actually pays you to hang out with your kid, it's kinda cool. My work schedule mellows right around March so this year I figured they were going to pay me to hang out with some seabass AND bond with my kid.

The first day off I took off for a 3 day trip on the Sand Dollar to close out Lobster season and finished with a 79lb limit after releasing a few big ones. Upon returning I actually hung out with my kid for a day or so till the seabass itch got to me. Conditions were not panning out for me local so I set up some plans to dive in a land far, far away.



THE LUCKY HAT

JOHN HUGHES



THIS IS MY LUCKY HAT, I THINK I CHOSE WISELY

Which brings us back to the dilemma of the fish bag and hat. All joking aside, this is a very serious debate for me. The fish bag was easy as I was headed far from home and even though my bag had holes in the bottom corners and a softball size hole from a rat, if I got a fish it needed to be kept cold for the ride. The hat was difficult. My wife actually asked me what I was doing standing in the hallway just staring at my hats. I told her this was a very serious decision which hat I was going to start off the season with and she just laughed at me. After switching back and forth a few times I finally went with one of my old reliables. I think I chose wisely.

I say I chose wisely because my first day of diving for the elusive ghost was pretty epic. We discussed the plan and decided to shoot limits and be home early. Upon hitting the dive location it was top to bottom vis and we could see the anchor on the seafloor. Not exactly commom for this location. I'm certain the hat had something to do with it. I jumped in before my buddies and the first thing I see is two big BSB under the boat. I dove down and they came right up to say Hi.

I TOLD MY BUDDIES WHO WERE STILL ON THE BOAT ABOUT IT AND THEY SHRUGGED. I THEN SWAM ABOUT 10 YARDS AWAY FROM THE BOAT AND I SEE 3 60LB SLUG WSB CRUISING ON THE BOTTOM. I DOVE DOWN AND ABOUT 1/2 WAY TO THE 55' SEAFLOOR THEY PEEL OFF AND HEAD AWAY. I SURFACED AND TOLD MY BUDDIES THAT WERE STILL ON THE BOAT AND THEY STARTED SCRAMBLING. I THEN SWAM ABOUT ANOTHER 10 YARDS AND SEE A WHOLE TRAIN OF 60LB SLUGS CRUISING ON THE BOTTOM 55' DOWN. I TOOK A BREATH AND DOVE FOR THE THIRD TIME THAT DAY AND JUST START SLIDING DOWN AS I'M WATCHING THESE BRUISERS JUST GLIDE THROUGH. I GOTTA TELL YOU THERE IS NOTHING MORE GRACEFUL IMO THAN A BIG SEABASS IN CLEAN WATER WHEN YOU HAVE TIME TO JUST WATCH IT SWIM FOR A WHILE. AS I WAS SLIDING, SLIDING, SLIDING, A FEW OF THEM PEELED OFF AND HEADED OUT. THE BEST PART WAS, ABOUT 6 OR 7 OF THEM JUST KEPT COMING WITHOUT CHANGING DIRECTION. I'M CERTAIN THE LUCKY HAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT. I WAS ALL KEYED IN ON ONE THAT WAS ENDING UP DIRECTLY BELOW ME AND WAS GETTING READY TO BLAST THE THING RIGHT IN THE TOP OF THE HEAD WHEN SOME MOTION CAUGHT MY EYE. ANOTHER FISH ABOUT THE SAME SIZE CAME RACING UP ALONGSIDE AND A LITTLE FURTHER OUT. BY THE TIME I HIT 45 FEET I WAS READY TO TAKE THE SHOT AND ALTHOUGH THE ONE BELOW ME WAS CLOSER, THE ONE THAT RACED UP WAS FULL BROADSIDE. I PIVOTED MY 62" MORI GUN UP TO THE OTHER FISH AND LET THE SHAFT FLY. IT HIT RIGHT WHERE I AIMED AND THE FISH SCREAMED THROUGH SOME KELP STRINGERS AS I RACED TO THE SURFACE.

BY THE TIME I REACHED THE SURFACE I WAS ABOUT SPOOLED ON MY REEL. I KNEW I HAD A SOLID SHOT SO I SLAMMED THE BRAKES ON AND WATCHED 55' BELOW AS THE FISH TURNED AND DID A FEW LONG WRAPS AROUND A STRINGER AND CAME TO A SCREECHING HALT ABOUT 15' OUT FROM THE STALK RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF THE BED. THAT'S WHEN I SAW THE BSB SHOW BACK UP. I WAS NOT WARMED UP, I JUST DID A COLD DIVE TO 50', SHOT A 60LB SLOB AND I HAD BLACKS ON MY FISH. MY HEARTRATE WAS THROUGH THE ROOF. I YELLED FOR MY BUDDIES WHICH FORTUNATELY WERE CLOSE. MY FRIEND TANC WAS CLOSEST AND WHEN HE ARRIVED I DIDN'T EVEN THINK I COULD GET BACK DOWN THAT DEEP. I WAS JACKED AND NOT THINKING TOO CLEARLY WHICH HAPPENS ALOT (I'M AN IDIOT) BUT ESPECIALLY WHEN MY ADRENALINE IS THROUGH THE ROOF. MY THOUGHT PROCESS WAS TO USE HIS GUN TO SHOOT THE FISH AGAIN AND PULL IT UP FROM THE OTHER SIDE BEFORE THE BLACKS ATE IT. HE HANDED OFF HIS GUN AND I PUNCHED DOWN TO ABOUT 45' AND WAS GOING TO SHOOT THE FISH IN THE HEAD BUT IT WAS LAYING RIGHT ON THE ROCKS AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BLOW HIS SHAFT UP WITH HIS ROLLER GUN.



I swam back up and we started talking about what we wanted to do. As we were talking (I was definitely screaming at him LOL) we see a sea lion race through chasing a bait ball. I also notice all these bubbles coming out of my fish as it seems I punctured the air bladder with my shot. With multiple bad scenarios running through my brain I tell him to go get my fish. Right before he punches down I scream to cut the shooting line, just get it! Of course, he leisurely swims down, inspects the situation and sees the fish is wrapped a good 15-20' away from where it's laying. I see him debating all the way from the surface and then decide to just cut the shooting line behind the shaft and swim the fish up. No lucky hat needed when you've got great dive buddies. Once the fish was on the surface, of course I took over HAHA. I swam the fish back and dealt with it. I was just sitting there looking at it on the deck thinking about how my vacation to hang out with my kid was going according to plan. First week off 80lbs of bugs and a huge slob of a seabass. I even hung out with my kid some. I couldn't wait to get home and show him even though he was only 7 months old at the time. It's a great feeling to be 45 minutes into your dive day looking at a 60lbr on the deck.



I HANDLED MY END OF THE DIVE PLAN BY SHOOTING MY LIMIT IN THE FIRST 10 MINUTES, UNFORTUNATELY MY BUDDIES WEREN'T SO LUCKY. OR, THEY DIDN'T PICK THE RIGHT HAT? TANC NEVER SAW ANY THAT DAY AND MY OTHER BUDDY SAW A WALL OF THOSE SLUGS AND SPOOKED IT WHILE DROPPING IN ON THEM. WE HAD INCREDIBLE CONDITIONS ALL DAY BUT AT THE END, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD ONE IN THE BAG. IT WENT 61.3LBS AT THE DOCK. MAYBE THE LUCKY HAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT. I GOT HOME AND OF COURSE MY KID WAS ASLEEP SO I WASN'T ABLE TO HAVE HIM RIDE IT OR SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT. I TOOK A FEW MORE PICS, FILLETED IT AND ATE THE COLLAR WITH SOME LEFT OVER LOBSTER MAC AND CHEESE MY WIFE HAD MADE.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE LUCKY HAT ADVENTURES...



LYLE DAVIS AND IVAN SANCHEZ WITH SOME LATE SUMMER FISH ABOARD THE "HALF DOZEN". THE TUNA NEVER CAME THROUGH BUT THESE YELLOWS WERE A WELCOMED SIGHT.



THE VIEWS ARE ESPECIALLY BREATHTAKING WHEN YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

**TENTATIVE
RICHIE
CUNNINGHAM
SHOWCASING A
SIZABLE YELLOW**



Jeff Bilhorn and his tentative, Maks Gusev, got into a some nice fish this summer, including Maks' first yellow!



BEHIND
THE
LEGEND



You're supposed to get towed by fish, not vessel assist!!



I don't think there's anyone more pleasurable to take money from than "Cupcake"



THE LONG BEACH NEPTUNES ARE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES

ATOMIC
AQUATICS

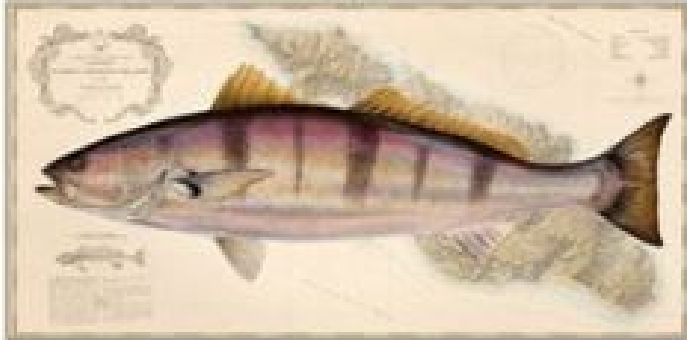


HERRANEN
SPEARFISHING



FIND REFUGE IN THE SEA





www.hatchcustomsusa.com

