

THE TRIDENT

June 2023 Volume 75
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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.

The Long Beach Neptunes would like to thank the following members for their work in obtaining our 501(c)(7) non-profit organization status:

Jeff Benedict, Brian York, Jon McMullin, Will Wither, Steve Parkford

2023 CALENDAR

- **June 7th** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **June 10th** - **60th Annual Blue Water Meet**
- **July 5th** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **October 14th** - Long Beach Neptunes Fall Classic

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby		Open
Calico Bass		Open
White Seabass		Open
Yellowtail		Open
Halibut -	Jacob Seto	20.9lbs
Sheephead		Open
Bonito		Open
Barracuda		Open
Dorado		Open
Bluefin Tuna		Open
Lobster		Open

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna	Open
Reef Fish	Open
Pelagic, non-tuna	Open

Kent McIntyre Award

Will it be you this year???

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Let's go!!!



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

June 7th, 7:00PM



This month's club meeting will be held IN PERSON,
at

Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

**4115 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood, CA
90712**



Baja or bust...?

My buddie Adrian flew in from Maui again so we took a trip to Baja for some fun! We drove straight thru to Bahia Conception and took the inflatable out to some of the islands. Not alot of fish but some small Cabrilla and 1 nice rosey snapper!

Next we headed south past Loreto and hit a couple old spots and shot some more Cabrilla and Yellow Snapper. I shot a nice Barred Pargo and my pb Yellow Snapper which i cut its gills and when the cloud of blood cleared a 6 ft Moray Eel was in my face trying to get my fish. I Poked it away for 3 to 4 minutes trying to put my fish on the stringer. Suddenly the eel took off really fast and i looked around and couldnt find my fish. I thought it grabbed it and took off! Then I heard some seagulls squackin and i looked up and saw my fish floating away around a Rock. I got it back and on my stringer.



We headed back north a bout 10 miles to a couple islands not too far from shore and in the morning we headed to the first one. It had great structure with big boulders and caves, we did the whole outside of the island. Adrian shot an AJ and i shot my pb Golden Grouper. I then shot my pb Barred Snapper and my buddie got a small Cuberra. We went to the south point and i shot a big parrot! the current was ripping and we called it a day.



On the way home we stopped at a spot ive always wanted to check out , I've never seen anyone or any boats there and it was really fishy! i was seeing some Cabrilla when i saw the biggest YT I've ever seen, it was over 50 lbs and probably in the high 50's...It was a beast! I made a drop and it turned and showed me its tail and it was gone!! Total heartbreaker! Then a school of around ten 15lb YT swam by, but i wanted a big one. That's when about a 40lb YT swam into view and then it was gone. I was amped up! All of a sudden another 40lbr swam at me from the north right underneath me. I lined up and squeezed the trigger and the safety was on! I was using my new gun and was not used to guns with safety's, by the time I took the saftey off I had no shot... another heartbreaker!

I swam around for another 45 mins and never saw another YT. A school of 25 to 30lb Roosterfish swam by, it was awesome to watch them swim by really slow and see them check me out! We left that spot with nothing but memories and I will definitely be hitting that spot again and maybe spend a couple days there, hopefully it will pay off!



We snapped my rack on my trailer hitch that held my ice chest full of fish on a bump on a dirt road and had to unload everything from my truck and rearrange everything so we could fit the ice chest and the broken rack back in the truck! With everything packed away, we were on the road again. Three quarters of the way home we stopped and noticed the Yakima roof rack had broke. Luckily the boat didn't fly off and I grabbed another tie down ratchet strap and we put it through the D rings on the boat and strapped it thru the back doors of my truck, ratcheted it down and shut the doors on the Straps and headed home!



We had a lot of difficulties on the trip but in the end we made it back safe and had some fish and stories to last a lifetime! Until the next time, dive safe!



Hobie Ladd

The stork is on its way, so a dive trip is of the highest priority.

May 20, 2023

With Sabrina's due date rapidly approaching, Ivan was in a panic to get one more Mexico trip in before this package arrived. After that, His diving would be greatly curtailed or should I say reduced to zero for at least a time. With Wil in, they were looking for a third and possibly a fourth. I agreed and suggested Robert as a fourth. Robert was in at the last minute due to work-related issues, So now it was the older more seasoned divers competing with the young bucks.

It was still early in the season so the water temp was still marginal for Wahoo, but Grouper, Snapper, and Amberjack could be on the hit list. The trip was left open whether to dive Cabo, La Paz, or a combo of both depending on conditions. Pepe would provide us with Victor, our guide for the 4 days of diving, and arrange for the pangas. We would have to figure out the lodging.



Day 1

Now in Cabo, Victor met us at the resort, we loaded the gear and off we went to dive the reefs off of Jose Del Cabo. Victor is Pepe's right-hand man and proved to be an excellent diver and guide along with possessing a great sense of humour. This is a top priority with this group. So day one was a bust with no sighting worth shooting, but the conditions looked good enough to give a second try on day 2.

Day 2

As with day 1, the sound of whales underwater was intense even though they were never in view.

My diving on the first day was pretty marginal at 45 feet for 45 seconds. The green 70-degree water and the 3 mil. suit with vest wasn't quite getting it. Today, the water did seem to be a bit cleaner and you could just make out the 80-foot reef at 45 feet.

I was able to hit 65 feet and eyeballed a grouper that was in range. I took the shot and bullseye, the grouper beelined to the rocks. I headed to the surface with the line in hand and I saw Victor at the surface already taking up the slack. We high-fived each other and the score was old guys one, young bucks zero. That score changed quickly when Ivan shot a 40-pound



grouper which was somewhat larger than mine. Also on Ivan's hit list were a trigger, parrot fish, and a rat yellow. Wil finished the day with a smorgasbord combo of one decent size pargo and three cabrillas. Robert put in a gallant effort but the pickings were slim. The over-the-hill gang had a lot of work to do to catch up to the youngins. We decided to head to La Paz for the next 2 days.



Day 3

We sailed to Isla Espiritu Santo and continued past it to El Bajo, a high spot several miles northeast. A panga of 4 to 5 freedivers had made it there first and it was evident that they had fish on. Victor marked another high spot with a float so we could drift dive to it with the strong current. The water was green and colder here than in Cabo. Drifting close to the high spot, the bait would appear just visible from the surface. They were moving fast as if being chased. Diving into them proved to be of no avail. Since we had no sighting here, we relocated to Espiritu Santo. But first we were diverted to the ferry wreck in hopes to spot a Yellowtail or grouper.

At the wreck, I was able to dive just above the main deck. I had not seen it in over 25 years, that was when I shot a large grouper just above the deck where it tore off bending my shaft to the shape of my middle initial "J". No such sightings here today.

Life on this Espiritu was incredible with tons of reef fish, mantas, and turtles. It turned into a sightseeing day with no fish taken. It was also Cinco de Mayo so the plan was to go to town and have a nice dinner and my favorite, ice cream.

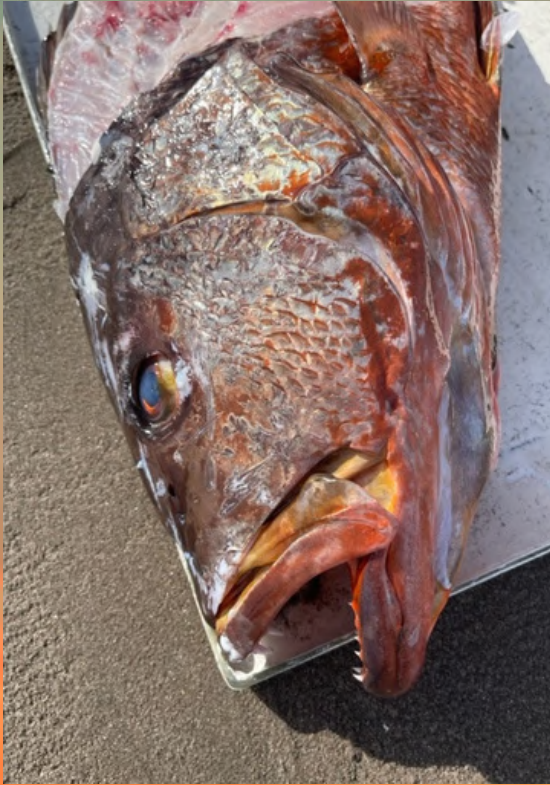


On the main drag, a huge stage had been erected with folding chairs for the locals to sit and enjoy the entertainment consisting of Mexican folk music and dancing. It was extremely well organized with plenty of security visible. It was a carnival atmosphere with rides and games for the kids and me. Our dinner was off the chart and we were able to view the stage from our table. Pretty tired from the diving, I mean sightseeing, we called it a night.



Day 4

It was more of the same at Espiritu Santo, Ivan shot a cabrilla, Wil ended up top dog with 2 cabrillas, and Robert shot a nice size parrot fish, and cabrilla. The icing on the cake was when the same divers we saw at El Bajo cruised by in their panga us displaying a 160 pound yellowfin tuna with a shaft protruding out mid-body. They were hunting not far from us and this fish was shot in shallow water just off the island.





The next day we headed to the airport with surprisingly a lot of fish to divide between the four of us. Speaking for myself, the four of us had a great time diving, laughing, and hanging out. I am grateful to be associated with these guys and the Long Beach Neptunes.

Mike Marsh

NUMBER

2

Everyone is shooting seabass. Just look on the internet and it will tell you so. The moon is full and the fish are in. They're everywhere. Just go here and you'll see big schools. And on and on it goes.

Well not me. I go and see nothing but murky water over and over. I take someone out and they shoot a seabass. I change things up and go to Catalina with a buddy and they shoot a seabass, twice. My wife quit asking me if I had a good time. To add insult to injury, one trip I made my first dive to clear the bubbles out of my suit and dove into a group of fish which all spooked. After a month and a half of this I'm on shaky ground. I'm questioning everything, every move I make. I was even considering the John Hughes "take the skunk off" tomato bath ritual!

Being the gluten for punishment I am, I headed out up the coast alone again with the music playing and a cup of hot coffee in hand. I dove several "hot spots" for nothing.

If the current has switched from this morning I'll jump this one last spot I told myself. Fortunately for me it had. I anchored up and plopped in the tropical 60 degree, 6 to 8 foot viz water. At this point I think I was singing a song, maybe thinking about buying a steak for dinner as I swam around the zone. Hey there's a piece of kelp, I'll go swim by it. Hey look there' a seabass swimming past the kelp. Hurry shoot it! Fish on!

I felt very gun shy so I let the fish run. I did the follow the reel line forever thing until I finally got a glimpse of my shooting line. It took several dives to locate the fish but I was happy it was still there. When I finally got the fish in my hands it was bigger than I thought. I got the fish in the boat and on ice. Finally, I'm on the board I thought. It was a good feeling.

When I got home, I was ecstatic to find out the fish was my second one in the 70-pound range at 71.6 pounds. I never thought I would achieve that in my life. So now as you may have guessed, all is good. No more second guessing myself and contemplating tomato baths!



LUCAS

JUST-BRA

I'm impressed by the perseverance and dedication of our members as they fight through serious health issues and life challenges to come out the other side to hunt another day.

After 2 years of engine replacements, serious health issues and major life changes Lyle was planning a trip in search of Sea Bass in his new boat, Ez Duz It. The crew consisted of Chase Davis, son and accomplished surfer yet new to spear fishing, Steve Parkford, Lyle and myself. Steve, with 3 fish already landed this season headed us in the right direction. We landed in 61* water with a hazy 15' of vis. Perfect!

From there, the day fell into place almost as if by design. Lyle was excited as he set out with Chase in search of Sea Bass and hopes of passing on a successful hunt with his son near by. Chase took some dives and heard the croakers for his first time which was his goal for the day. Sometime thereafter Lyle shot a nice fish. His first in the last 2 years. First time on his new boat, with a new shoulder, (the 4th), Chase hearing croaking for the first time, and I followed it up with a nice fish as well to round out the day. Thanks to gentleman Steve for pointing us in the right direction....and Lyle for the opportunity to share in this great comeback story! Welcome back brother.....



JEFF BENEDICT

STEVE PARKFORD



ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings free-divers/spearos! The PEACE is offering a few open boat single day free-dive trips this year - June 30, August 18 and now July 28! We hope you will join us. Game to be focused on will be white sea bass, unless we get lucky and see some yellowtail! Tickets available here!

We also have some tickets left for our open boat free-dive trip July 13-15, destination: Rosa/Cruz/Anacapa. Tickets available here!



PEACE
DIVE BOAT

Loren Story

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949-247-1106

Email: info@peaceboat.com

Website www.peaceboat.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Some fellow Neptunes and a couple Tentatives are looking for a ride to this years 60th annual Bluewater Meet. If you have a boat and have the room and are willing to take a fellow member along please reach out to:

Tom Blandford - mvgracias45@gmail.com

Scott Bamsey - hbbamz@yahoo.com

Tentative - Mike Wells - mikewells1281@aol.com

Tentative - Garrett Awei Lu - gee.lu08@gmail.com

Thank you



The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

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