



THE TRIDENT

January 2022 Volume 73 Issue 1



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

JANUARY 5TH @ 7PM



**This month's club
meeting will be held at
Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria
4115 Paramount Blvd,
Lakewood, CA 90712**

2022 Board Members

President

Juan-Carlos Aguilar

310-569-3316

juanmilliondollars@yahoo.com

Ex-Presidio

Paul Zylstra

562-254-7717

zflattie@gmail.com

Vice President

Seamus Callaghan

714-742-6326

acwaman@aol.com

Treasurer

Kyle Brannon

562-397-5959

kylebrannon@gmail.com

Tentative Manager

Hobie Ladd

562-607-5579

lbwallbanger@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Jorge Veliz Ramirez

310-977-8259

jvsc_sp@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Taylor Yates

714-747-6807

taylornyates714@gmail.com

Club Historian

Paul Byrd

949-500-1459

pbyrd@argosx.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.

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

2022 CALENDAR

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby

Calico Bass

White Seabass

Yellowtail

Halibut

Sheephead

Bonito

Barracuda

Dorado

Bluefin Tuna

Lobster

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna

Reef Fish

Pelagic, non-tuna

Kent McIntyre Award

Open

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Open

- January 1st - New Year's Day
 - March 2nd - Awards Banquet
 - March 16 - Lobster Season ends
 - April 30th - Lobster Card Submission deadline
 - March 15th - June 15th - Seabass limit (1)
 - April 6th - Neptunes Auction
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PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear fellow Neptunes,

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season. I'm looking forward to this coming year, as I'm sure it will be one to remember!

We have some great events lined up, including the awards banquet, the club auction and our two awesome tournaments. The spirit of competition within our club is always driving us to improve ourselves. With that in mind, please also remember to take the time to be safe. We all love our sport, but we should make sure we are doing it as safely as possible; promoting safer diving practices for the spearfishing community as a whole.

I'll see you on the water!

Thanks,

Juan-Carlos Aguilar



EDITORS NOTE

Hello fellow Neptunes, this is your new newsletter editor, Jorge Veliz. I would like to start off my very first article by giving Juan-Carlos Aguilar some recognition & a HUGE thankyou for the astounding job he did as our previous newsletter editor. To say the least, Juan truly put in countless hours and %110 effort to make us all feel inspired and motivated to keep doing what we do with every article he graciously put together. It is my great pleasure to take over his reign as this years newsletter editor as I hope I can do half as good of a job he did and also would like to congratulate him on becoming the new president for our club in 2022! With that being said, I would like to point out the fact that we are quickly approaching the new year and would like to remind everyone that safety is our number one priority whether on land or out at sea. Although some of us may or may not be drinking and partying on New Years weekend, it is important to remember lots of other people will be intoxicated and unfortunately, ON the road. I wish every Neptune a strong start to the new year but I also wish everyone lots of memorable dive trips and your families a very blessed, safe and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Christmas came early for Hobie!



PANAMA TUNA, BETWEEN DELTA AND OMICRON by Terry Maas

Earlier this year the Diving for a Cause team was disappointed to learn that the lodge that supported community service and great tuna diving for the last 10 years was closing its doors. However, the honorable owners transferred a rather large deposit—unused because of Covid—to a similar lodge in Boca Chica. While the previous accommodations were good, we were unprepared for the excellence we found at the Cala Mia Resort on Boca Brava Island on our December reconnaissance trip.

When our overnight flight to Panama City arrived, we were greeted by a VIP service to whisk us through customs and shepherd our bags. After another domestic flight to David, and taxi to Boca Chica, we were met at the boat ramp by the Cala Mia team, who took us to the resort, about 20 minutes over water. The team promptly transferred our baggage to our individual casitas—the first of many pleasant surprises. The two rooms, bath and bedroom, share a spacious deck overlooking the surrounding bays and islands. Construction is new and of high quality, including the air conditioning. The large dining area and bar is tastefully appointed, and another surprise—your lodging fee covers all drinks, food and local excursions including boating, kayaking, climbing, and horse riding. If you want a massage the hostess/masseuse Gladys will provide that on the small island outcropping you reach from a footbridge. The swimming pool is clean, warm and overlooks the water.



The pool and surrounding casitas.



The bar is well stocked and all drinks are covered in the room package.



We were pleasantly surprised when he staff transported our bags from the boat to our rooms, which are single occupancy.



The view of part of the resort as we return to the sheltered bay from which the boats operate.

The footbridge connects the main lodge to the massage hut.



The food. Unbelievable—5 star. For dinner, you are offered choices of appetizers and entree. The gourmet chef cooks to perfection. Breakfast is as simple or as full as you want with unlimited coffee, juices eggs, bacon and pancakes if you prefer. For diving days, you order lunch the night before.



The boats. Unlike the previous operator, who maintained fast and spacious boats but only basic amenities, the Cala Mia boats are much better, even tops by US standards. Each of the three 35 ft Black fin boats will shave a half hour to the tuna grounds, making the trip an hour and a half. Each boat has back up engines that cans be changed out in 24 hours in the spacious boat yard. There is standard VHF communication with satellite tracking. Each boat has a first aid kit and supplemental oxygen. Best of all, the owner is willing to modify the boats for divers, removing the fighting chairs, providing speargun holders and trail line holders for the quick exit from the swim step required in the "run and gun" technique.



These amazing facilities are the product of 10 years labor and oversight by the owner, New Zealander David Fraiser. David believes his facilities are ideal for freedive spearfishing and he is anxious to improve the image local fishermen have of spearos. Much damage has been done by unscrupulous dive operators notably from Florida and Mexico, who have poisoned the local fishing community—one of the largest in Panama—against spearfishermen. Among the gripes of the locals is the attitude of freedivers who spread out all over the Hannible Bank—a relatively small area—with multiple floats and lines making it difficult for other sportsfishers and local artisan fishermen to navigate. One diver has been reported to point his speargun at a complaining fisherman. Montosa Island, which is close to the center of the tuna grounds, was littered with trash and rotting fish left by camping spearos. A chief complaint of the locals is divers taking local reef species such as snapper or targeting roosterfish. One of the largest harbor owners in Boca Chica has an image of a spearfisher covered with an angry red slash—spearos not welcome.

The Cala Mia boat captains keep in constant contact with other sportsfishers and the local artisan fishermen. The locals have perfected their practices. The typical tuna boat is a wooden 50ft double decker craft packed to the gunnels with hand-line fishermen, and sprouting flags and buoys. They are especially adept at creating their own ecosystem—a captive school of bait fish that travel under and around the boat. Seabirds circle above and often point where the next tuna boil is. The center of this floating FAD is a driftwood log, lashed to the side of the boat, covered with barnacles, the more the better to keep the captive bait school close. Our captains know all the fishermen captains and share mutual respect and cooperation. Us by reporting new tuna sightings and keeping out of their space, and them by staying with the tuna schools overnight and sharing their positions.

Even though December is the off season for tuna, the locals found two schools in the area of Montosa Island and graciously allowed us to hunt along side them. Our captain sought out dolphin schools—both spinner and spotted—and tried to anticipate the school's direction. While the tuna are mostly found leading the dolphin schools, it is not uncommon to find singles mingling with the dolphin packs. Two of us, perched on the swim-step jumped when the captain commanded. We dove as quickly as possible to intercept the dolphin/tuna parade—not an easy task. The Cala Mia team quickly got the hang of throwing and retrieving our floats and lines as we made over 40 jumps each day.

During the first day of our two-day dive, the tuna were metered 60-80 feet and moving fast, making them difficult to see. However, the next day they showed up much shallower, 30-60 feet allowing us a shot. This is a typical pattern in this area where the day-to-day behavior of the tuna can vary widely—no two days are alike. The fish I saw ranging from 50 to 150 pounds.

Besides checking out this resort for diving suitability, Diving for a Cause aims to alter the unfavorable currently held image of spearos. To that end, we have engaged a local businessperson and educator to help direct our efforts. Cala Mia Resort will be a great place to plan for a post-pandemic tuna hunt base. I highly recommend it. The April Diving for a Cause tuna trip has two remaining spaces: <https://www.divingforacause.org/panama-world-class-spearfishing.html>

POST SHOREDIVE SNACK



CLAMATO / LIME JUICE / TAPATIO

Its almost that time of year again....get ready.





HAPPY

NEW

YEAR



The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

**ATOMIC
AQUATICS**



HERRANEN
SPEARFISHING



FIND REFUGE IN THE SEA



