

Do you know your Neptunes History?

Club historian Mori answers some questions about the beginnings of the Long Beach Neptunes in an exclusive email interview

Q: When did the Long Beach Neptunes Begin?

A: In the 1940's, sometime after the war... Nobody really knows for sure, but it was a group of LA firemen and their buddies that founded the club.

Q: What was the original name of the club/who founded the club?

A: It was originally called the "Los Angeles Firemen Neptunes". The Neptunes in Long Beach did not want to have to drive to LA to attend the meetings. Rumor has it that these people who wanted to break away from the main club ended up getting nominated and voted in as board members in LA that year, so the segregation of members to Long Beach had to wait for another year. "Doc" Nathan Mathison was the first president of the Long Beach Neptunes.



Thanks Mori for your account of the earliest days of our esteemed club. Us "new kooks on the block" need to learn where it all started and I'm sure the "Old Dogs" will enjoy re-living the memories of days gone by.



Q: What was the original meeting place and frequency?

A: Early meetings and gatherings were held at Omar Nielson's house. Omar also hosted most of the awards banquets until the late 1980's. He also hosted the Dragon Swim until about 1995. When I (Mori) joined the club, they used to have the meetings at a Mexican restaurant in Seal Beach. In about 1994, they moved the meetings to Me and Ed's and the meetings have been there since.

Q: Do you know the reasons for establishment of the club? Stated objectives, etc ?

A: It was a bunch of kooks who have in common the love of shooting a fish and shooting shit over a beer.

Q: Are there any other interesting facts about the early days that new guys should know about the Neptunes?

A: The Neptune tournaments, including the Blue Water Meet was always a "freediving only" event. The Fathomiers Scramble Meet, which was part of the Long Beach California Sea Festival, started in 1969, but they allowed SCUBA as well.

If you are an "Old Dog Neptune" with history to tell, please contact me to get your account on the record. The board has made it a priority this year to capture as much yet to be documented history as we can and your piece of the puzzle will help to complete the story. Thanks, Todd (call me at 805-587-6637 or email me at tfarquhar@me.com)