

The **TRIDENT**

February 2023 | Volume 75 Issue 2



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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

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

Will it be you this year???

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Let's go!!!

Open
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Open

- ## 2023 CALENDAR
- **February 1st** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
 - **March 1st** - 2022 Fish Awards Ceremony
 - **March 22nd** - California Spiny lobster season ENDS
 - **April 5th** - Long Beach Neptunes Auction
 - **June 10th** - 60th Annual Blue Water Meet
 - **October 14th** - Long Beach Neptunes Fall Classic



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

February 1st, 7:00 PM



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

Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

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



MAGDALENA BAY TRIP EARLY DECEMBER 2022 ABOARD THE "SUCCESS"



Robert Strohbach, Bill Peratt, Dan Keeler, Mike deGiosa and his good friend Chris Raimundi and I set out for a 4 day Magdalena Bay liveaboard. Our boat was the 60' Sport Fishing boat, "Success" out of San Diego. Our Captain, Cary Dodson, is a veteran Encinitas raised Waterman who does it all; surfing, fishing and spearfishing. He's spent years in Baja and is one of the "saltiest" individuals that I ever met! We boarded in Puerto San Carlos Thursday evening and began setting up gear before dinner, a safety briefing and a bit of sleep before the long motor out of San Carlos Bay and north to the large area known as the "Ridge," a common destination of the San Diego sport fishing fleet and area most of us have not had the opportunity to hunt. It was an understatement to say that we were super excited! That said, the spearfishing group before us was not that successful, so we were a bit concerned. Robert decided to divide us into competition teams - "Old Guys" vs "Not Quite As Old Guys!" It's always a competition with Robert! I was greeted by Peyton, the deckhand, who said that Joe Prola left something for me from the previous trip. I said, "Yes, he left a flasher." I would later find out that it wasn't the only thing that little Gremlin left me!

**Old
Guys**



vs



**Not
Quite
as
Old
Guys**

We arose to calm seas and a beautiful, sunny morning as we motored north toward the Ridge while towing a large Panga. We had a couple of Marlin sightings when Mike decided that he wanted to see if he could get close enough to stick one. I jumped in the panga with Mike, Carlitos and later Chris and we sped ahead of the Success to see what we could find. We also were looking for any weeds or floating debris that would likely hold Mahi.



We spotted a Striped Marlin playing on the surface with a fish that we later identified as a deep water fish named a Louvar. We picked up the fish, barely alive, and looked around for the Marlin. We found it and dropped off Mike to see if he could get close enough for a shot. Mike closed some distance and placed a solid shot on the fish; the fight was on! I jumped in and enjoyed taking photographs and video of Mike and Chris being pulled along for a long ride before the Marlin was weak enough to be brought up for a second kill shot.



Mikes Marlin Kill Shot <https://gopro.com/v/y8O1am0MvlgVZ>

We eventually made it to the Ridge where Cary anchored the Success on a high spot and we began hunting. The water was clear, but the wind & swell started increasing as forecasted. Conditions deteriorated, but were still workable. I believe Dan was the first to boat a nice Wahoo, followed by Mike, Bill, me and eventually everyone else

Captain Dodson moved our boat several times over the next few days. The conditions fluctuated with the

wind and swell, but surface conditions were a bit challenging most of the time. All the areas had turtles and the water was mostly clear, blue. When divers were not seeing fish or the current was not quite right for the area, Cary moved the boat to ensure that we had maximum opportunities.

Mike being towed by Marlin <https://gopro.com/v/m0zoOgrqIEb7r>



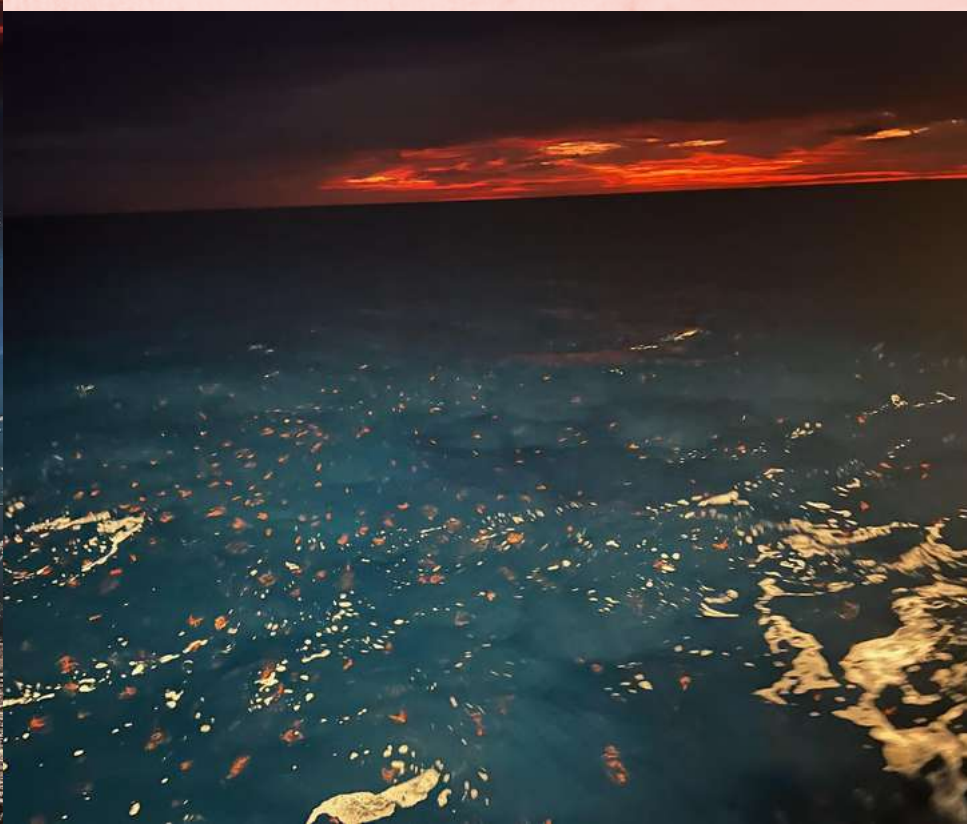
Most of us took several Wahoo and Mahi; some missed a bit more than others; present company excluded! That said, the "Old Guys" always seemed slightly behind the "Not Quite As Old Guys!" In all, the six of us combined for 21 fish; mostly Wahoo with some Mahi mixed in, Marlin and a smaller grade Yellowfin tuna Bill nailed on a deep dive.

Dan was "Top Gun" on the Wahoo count, followed by Bill, Mike and I who took multiple Wahoo in the low-mid 60s. Robert shot the biggest Wahoo, a beautiful fish in the upper 60s!





We remained anchored on the Ridge every night and were greeted to some beautiful sunrises & sunsets that made you stare in awe of everything. Our deck lights attracted a large school of Mahi one night that swam around the surface throwing off the most spectacular bioluminescence, accented by their unique coloring. It was one of the most beautiful light shows that I've witnessed in the ocean! Pelagic Tuna crabs joined us one night as well right during a fiery sunset.



A big highlight of the trip were dozens of Chocolate clams that Captain Dodson had in the live-well. The name is due to their rich, dark color, and they're well-known and considered a delicacy throughout the Baja peninsula. Naturally Mike cleaned dozens and put together the proper sauces for consumption. We ate A LOT of them!



Things slowed down the last day before we were due to pull anchor and run south 100 miles or so to San Carlos. Robert, Mike and I kept punching dives hoping for one more fish, but were not having any sightings. I was getting ready to head back to the Success when I eyed a nice Striped Marlin taking a mild interest in my flasher 35' down. I had never taken a Marlin, but was also not ideally rigged because I had a small RA float and short bungee on a standard float-line for the softer flesh Wahoo. I quickly punched a dive and told myself not to take a shot unless it was very well placed. The Marlin sank out as I lined up a well led, long shot that struck him downward through the upper shoulder area. I rushed to the surface and quickly grabbed the float before being plowed along as if I was hanging onto a small boat! I shouted for the bigger float, but Carlitos sensed what was going on and eventually handed me my 3 atm float that I attached to the smaller float before the Marlin decided to take the fight deep. After a fairly long fight, I could feel the Marlin tiring at which time I began clipping down down the line until I reached my 20' bungee and hopped into the panga. The shot placement along with pulling my heavy, old-ass around had pretty much taken all the fight out of him. Carlitos and I safely dispatched & boated the Marlin before motoring back to the Success one last time. Between shooting Wahoos and the Marlin, my 400lb mono was stretched to the point that it would no longer tension properly on the line release! (Several of us grilled some Marlin from the trip and it was outstanding!)



As I removed my gear one last time, I noticed what appeared to be a coiled, human piece of fecal matter in my gearbox. I said something to the effect of, "Are you F'n kidding me" as the KRAKEN slowly began emerging! After a few moments, I noticed others laughing and a camera pointed at me. I checked what appeared to be a pile of shit more closely and discovered it was plastic. I then realized what Peyton really meant when he told me that Prola left "something" for me when we first boarded.

BIGGEST WAHOO OF THE TRIP

ROBERT
STROBACH



I cannot say enough for the effort and work put forth by the crew of the Success. Captain Dodson was always assessing conditions, providing advice and moving the boat when he felt necessary in addition to keeping a keen eye on divers at all times. Loren was the night captain and engineer ensuring the boat ran well. Our deckhand, Peyton, worked tirelessly making sure that we safely exited/returned, and cleaned, vacuumed-sealed and stored all the fish in two onboard freezers



Our Chef, Katie, while still recovering from an impromptu, accidental flash from Joe Prola on the previous trip, always had something good for us to eat. We never had the same dinner twice and the meals were outstanding!

Lastly, all of us owe a bit of gratitude to "Roberto" for organizing the trip. It was one that all of us will remember for a long time.

John Carpenter

John Carpenter Wahoo

<https://gopro.com/v/WyB0e5Kpm8M7O>



TENTATIVE

Lauren Renteria



I'm Lauren Renteria, 35, native to southern CA, and I've been diving and spearfishing for about 10 years. I was raised by my dad who took me deep-sea fishing as soon as I was big enough for him to strap my car seat into his 1980's Sea Ray. My favorite childhood memories are hunting, processing, and eating pelagic and big game fish with him. By the age of 9 I had already caught bluefin, yellowfin, marlin, dorado,

yellowtail, etc., I could identify all our local species of game and bait fish. I felt at home in the ocean, and it's a feeling that stuck with me throughout my life.

Fast forward to my early 20's, I was experiencing the monotony of working and supporting myself for the first time. I started to really enjoy spending time outdoors in order to disconnect. I was living close to Laguna Beach and had the spontaneous idea to go snorkeling. The marine life captivated me and I was instantly addicted. I started diving multiple times a week and my freediving quickly progressed.



As I advanced, I dabbled with photography, SCUBA, lobster diving, and ultimately spearfishing. Because of my freediving ability and species knowledge I skipped the "shit fish" stage, went straight to shooting calico then onto more prized fish. I joined local clubs and got sponsored by Spear America where I met my mentor, Paul Romanowski. He and I competed in competitions together for a couple of years where we always placed in the top three.

Nowadays I'm a more selective competitor and sustainable hunter. I don't spearfish for bragging rights or Instagram pictures, it's a way of life for me, which feels aligned with the culture of the Neptunes. I recently went to Punta Mita with Danny, Hobie, and Chase. We hunted yellowfin tuna for three days at Corbatena in 80-degree, clear blue water. It was my first experience hunting yellowfin, and I was lucky enough to land two that trip. I appreciate the guys giving me the opportunity to prove myself as a diver and their willingness to share some of their knowledge so that I can continue to grow in my spearfishing career and hopefully as a member of this community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE WATER MEET 2023

Every year for the past decade I've tried to figure out how I can get to Catalina for the Blue Water Meet in June. I live in Arizona and my boat is in Mexico, so it's always difficult. I noticed this year that several members faced the same problem and needed a ride to the meet. I'm not sure if it worked out for them, but there may be a solution next year (2023).

Juan-Carlos has chartered the Bottom Scratcher for the past two years for dive trips to SBI. These have been great trips: an outstanding crew, a diesel-powered RIB as a chase boat, limited divers and a boat that is setup for free divers. Juan asked the skipper/owner, Kevin, if his boat would be available to charter for next year's BWM. Kevin sincerely enjoys having Neptunes on board and immediately agreed to a possible BWM charter.

Tentatively, we'd leave 22nd Street Landing on Friday at midnight, dive all day Saturday, attend the weigh-in party that night and return to LA Harbor by 0600, Sunday morning. The chase boat will act as a water taxi for the beach festivities. Juan won't be able to organize the BWM charter for next year and asked me if I'd handle the charter. It was a no-brainer. Of course I would.

So, the reason for this note is to determine if there is an interest from club members in this charter for the 2023 BWM. I'm not asking for a commitment; I want to see if we have enough members to fill the boat (10 to 12, divers). I don't have a cost yet, but it will be less than the SBI charters.

If you are interested or have questions, please send me a note at mvgracias45@gmail.com , call me or text me at (562) 522-8670.

Tom Blandford

PS it's nice to have someone else prepare meals and clean the boat.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEPTUNES,
DON'T
FORGET TO
PAY YOUR
DUES!!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW YEAR, NEW FISHING LICENSE.
DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH AN
EXPIRED LICENSE!!!**

**Only 50 days left of the California
Spiny Lobster season. Season
ends March 22nd. Get in those last
minute limits.**

**Don't be shy...Members, we want
to hear from you! Send in your
fish stories to
XTRDAE86X@GMAIL.COM**



The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

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