



THE  
TRIDENT

August 2023  
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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

- **August 2nd** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **September 6th** - 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 -	Todd Farquhar	7.8lbs
White Seabass -	Paul Zylstra	71.6lbs
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 -	John Hughes	Yellowtail - 47.8lbs

### Kent McIntyre Award

### Perpetual Big Fish Trophy



# MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

August 2nd, 7:00PM



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

**Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria**

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



I've been struggling with some knee issues, but I've still managed some great trips in between being laid out. I've had to set some of my own plans aside and make some different choices but some of that, included just some great time with the family and some opportunities to do some diving out in front of the house with my eight year old son, who is just chomping at the bit to be spearfishing these days. Here are some highlights from the last few months.

Four days at Catalina with the family and my son's first Spearfishing trip where he shot his first fish



**Pretty solid Baja run, which included some great shallow grouper Diving and my personal best yellowtail at 47.8 pounds.**



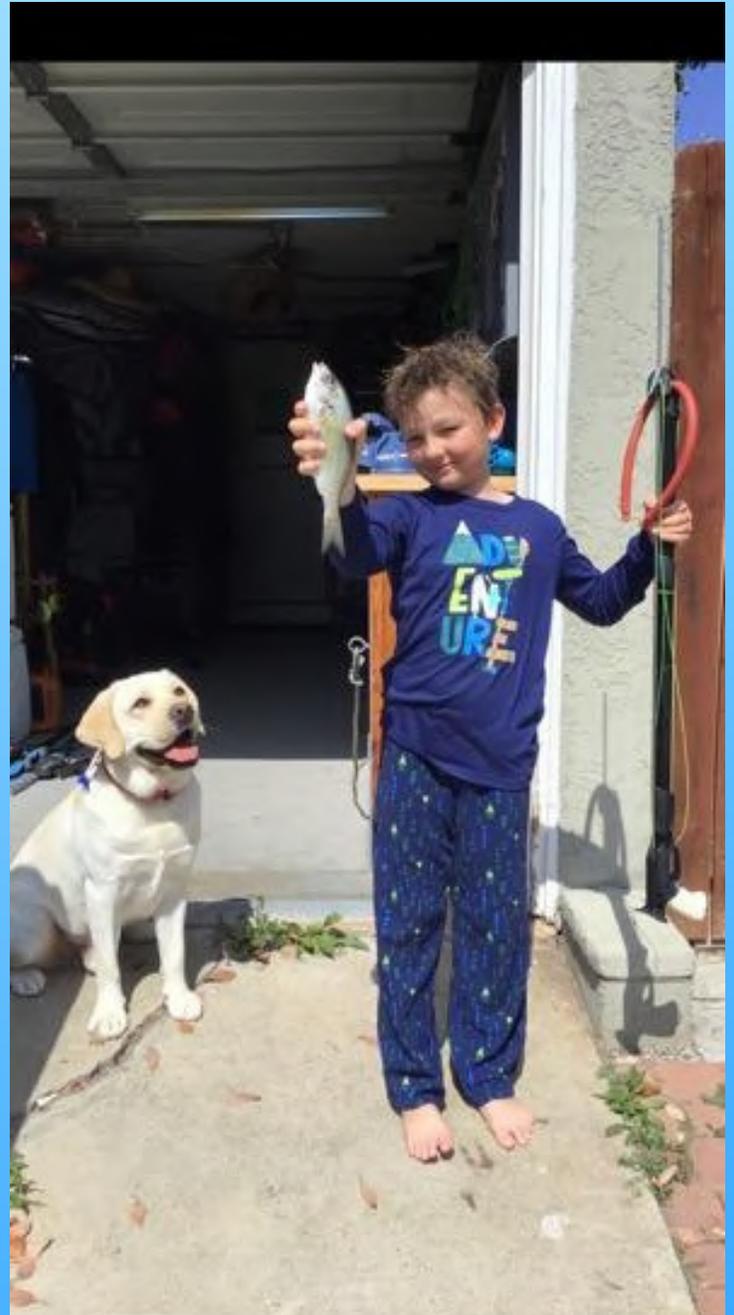
**My 20th anniversary in Kauai with my wife and kids and taking turtle rides with my son every day Diving**



Probably one of my best yellowtail trips ever with Zylstra, which included 80 foot plus purple Bluewater, and wide-open 35 to 40+ pound yellows every spot we stopped on. Insanity!



And had a few weeks of shallow diving around the house, which had lots of opportunities to teach the boy all kinds of stuff, as he really starts to get into it. One day I was able to grab a Lobster somewhere in the 12 to 14 pound range in 4 feet of water right in front of him. It was such an impressive animal and just really a incredible experience for him.



Anyways, back to the salt mines now and hoping my knees hold up through the rest of the year. Having to sacrifice some of my free time as my son gets into it, but I can't quite explain the joy of doing what I love, and seeing the joy and excitement it creates for him, the next generation.

I feel so blessed to be able to see and experience the things I do while doing this incredible sport along with so many solid friends I have in the community.

John Hughes

# *WHAT A DIFFERENCE A SNORKEL MAKES*

By Seamus Callaghan

July 3rd, my girlfriend Joyce and I set sail for the Island aboard my 46' sailboat, Voyager. We had strong head winds so despite making good speed, we needed to tack up the Island some to hit our intended destination of the Isthmus and were moored up in plenty of time for the evening fireworks show.

July Forth had us celebrating kicking those damned British out of the country with a 10 mile toward Little Harbor and back, that evening cooking up the burgers on the grill. That was the only protein we had provisioned, as the plan was for me to harvest that from the sea during our working week at the Island. Joyce seemed somewhat skeptical at this idea, but I assured her that kelp burgers were every bit as good as the real thing!

The next day I was rescued from having to load everything into my inflatable by our very own, Juan Carlos Aguilar, who was kind enough to pick me up in his boat for a lunchtime dive. Despite my years of diving Catalina, I knew better than to second guess somebody that lives and dives there daily and went along with his suggestion of diving a local secret spot called Ship Rock!!!

Once anchored, Juan slipped into the water quickly while I struggled untangling a float line he had loaned me. The tangled float line was an obvious tactic to delay my getting in the water with him! As it turns out, he need not have taken such steps, as I was causing my own delay by not being able to find a snorkel! While Juan worked his way up current, I cursed out the individuals I had loaned dive gear to a couple of weeks prior, as they were obviously also in on Juan's sinister plan! After turning my own dive bag inside out, I went through Juan's bag, surely he had an extra snorkel; It would seem not!

I then searched the boat inside and out and only came across what appeared to be a water pistol in the shape of a penis. Hmmm, I only received a gavel for my presidency, were they handing out dildo/water pistols now? Not wanting to put that in my mouth, I opted to go in without a snorkel. In perfect conditions, this may have been doable, but fighting a 2 knot current, was almost impossible. Fortunately, I was in the water less than 10 minutes when Juan Carlos appeared in front of me with a healthy 25# plus Yellowtail! Thank God, we can get out now, go back to Voyager and get my snorkel!



The photo shows the distinct difference between what I found and a snorkel

After a quick stop at Voyager, I was now fully equipped and we were heading back out to another local's secret spot, Eagle Reef!! Already having shot a healthy fish, Juan Carlos generously offered to run a live boat, dropping me a couple of hundred yards up current from the reef.

I was still in open water when I saw my first sign of bait and immediately dropped down leveling off at 30'. As I gazed down in the 40' diminishing viz, I saw what looked like a school of Barracuda below me and allowed myself to sink deeper. It wasn't long before I realized those were not cudas but the tops of what was the largest school of White Sea Bass I have seen in my 40 years diving! Phased little by my presence, I was able to drop further and get a solid shot on what looked like one of the larger fish closest to me. Although not a kill shot, it was solid and I felt confident short lining the fish up with me to keep from wrapping in the deeper kelp. A few minutes later I had the fish safely in my hands at the surface and Juan right there to pick me up, letting out a few "hell yeahs" as he approached.



Back at Juan's place for the filet ceremony

I did not mention the device I had found on the boat to Juan Carlos, but was sure not to turn my back on him the rest of our time at the Island.

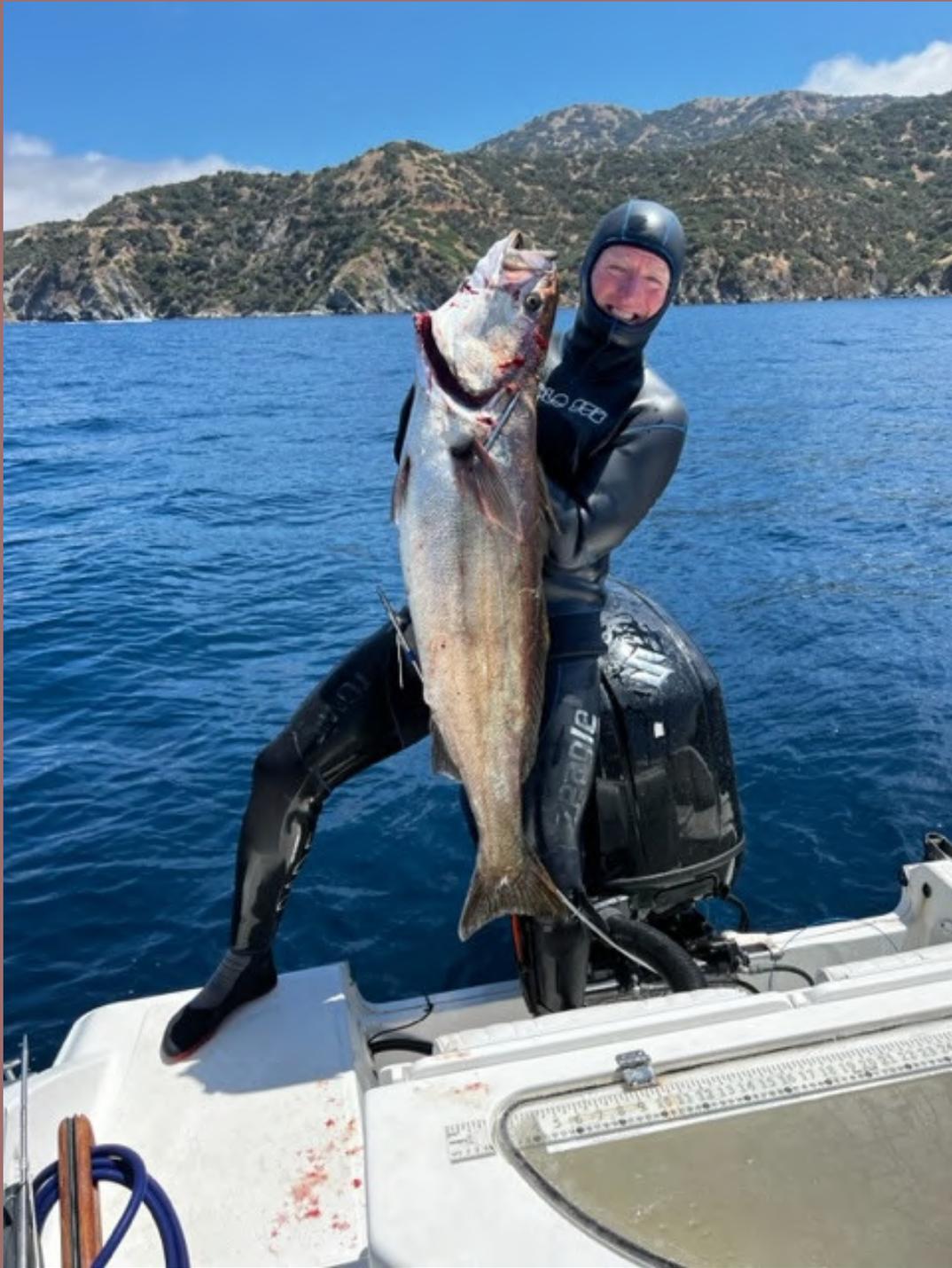
Despite having more than enough meat to last the week and being able to tell Joyce, "I told you so" for some time to come, I was picked up the next day by Neptune tentative, Bond, Craig Bond, for another lunch hour spearing session.

We immediately headed out to and anchored on the high spot at Eagle Reef. It was a few minutes later when I heard Craig cursing various names I did not recognize, as seems he could not find his snorkel and they were obviously responsible. This immediate placement of blame to anybody but himself seemed a very familiar trait and I thought, this guy's going to make a great Neptune!!

After about a 30-minute delay while we returned to Voyager to get Craig a snorkel, we were back anchored again and in the water at Eagle. The current was still flowing but had eased off from the day prior. I kicked 50 yards or so up from the pinnacle and made a dive, visibility was also similar to the day prior, a hazy 40 feet.

I made a second dive to about 35 feet and heard some distinct croaking from the direction of some deeper kelp off to my left. I allowed myself to drift down current and over the kelp that was swept parallel to the bottom by the current and immediately saw about 10 nice sized White Sea Bass nestled between the kelp canopies. I allowed myself to drop down above them and once again plant my arrow nicely into the shoulder of the one closest to me. I again did not kill but had a good enough shot I short lined the fish up and out of the kelp and allowed myself to get to the surface. A few minutes later the fish was once again safely in my hands as Craig approached saying, "man you're good"!! Naturally I will let him go on believing that shooting fish on my first and then second dive are all par for the course for me and not mention the countless hours spent seeing phuck all and coming home skunked!

But alas, this was not to be the case this week and I do want to thank Juan Carlos and Craig for their contributing to what was an amazing trip to the Island.



Cheers,  
Seamus

I FINALLY SHOT A FISH! I WENT OUT WITH JUAN AT CATALINA. AFTER MISSING A LONG SHOT ON A YELLOWTAIL, JUAN ASKED ME IF I SHOT FROM THE SURFACE AND I INDICATED THAT I HAD. HE TOLD ME NEVER SHOOT FROM THE SURFACE. INSTEAD, WHEN YOU SEE THE FISH EXHALE YOUR AIR SO THAT YOU CAN SLIP BELOW THE SURFACE QUICKLY. FURTHER, HE TOLD ME NEVER TO DIVE AT THE FISH - DIVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION THE FISH ARE SWIMMING.

A COUPLE HOURS LATER A SCHOOL OF YT WERE APPROACHING FROM MY LEFT. I EXHALED AND DOVE TO MY RIGHT, TRYING NOT TO LET THEM SEE MY EYES. WHEN I LOOKED UP AGAIN THE FISH WERE CLOSER, SO I PICKED OUT THE CLOSEST ONE AND SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER.



AS EXPECTED (APPARENTLY) THE FISH WRAPPED UP IN THE KELP ABOUT THIRTY FEET DOWN. NATURALLY, I WAS OVERLY EXCITED AND STRUGGLING TO GET CALM. I WAS ABLE TO SWIM DOWN, BRAIN THE FISH AND CLEAR SOME KELP. AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER BOAT WITH THREE DIVERS ANCHORED CLOSE BY AND CAME OVER TO HELP. AFTER CUTTING A BUNCH OF KELP WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE FISH TO HAND. THANKS TO JUAN AND ALL LBN'S FOR THE HELP AND GUIDANCE.

**Tentative:**

*Craig Bond*

# LARRY HEINRICH



# RON WARREN



# IVAN SANCHEZ



# TENTATIVE INTRODUCTION

Hi, my name is Rick Cardet. I'm 39 years old and have been freediving since I was a kid. Honestly not sure how old I was, but I think I was 12 when my brother and I were first allowed to go to Bimini Bahamas. The rule was we could make the Bimini trip if we could dive 35ft, so my brother and I would push each other for a few years until we both made it.

My first experience spearfishing was having my dad and uncle Bill tickle out lobsters into flats for my brother and I to dart down and shoot our slings at, mostly missing. Richard Cunningham can attest to not much changing...



Most of my experience comes from North Florida wrecks and South Florida reefs. I've got a few years from NY/NJ and had some good luck at a tournament off the oil rigs in Louisiana. But, California makes me feel like I'm starting all over again.



I love diving and love just being in the water. I don't have a Level 1 freediving cert yet, but I am a very safe diver. I'm always watching whomever I'm in the water with and will be checking my watch to know how long you're down for. My main goal for joining the club is to gain more contacts to get out there.

Got myself a kayak about 8 years ago, but the boat my wife and I got this past October has been much more fun! I'm always stoked to get out there and learn new styles. If any of you are interested in joining me, LET'S GO!



Photos are:

Early days before I started using weights; too skinny to need 'em anyhow (1996 or '97)

Biggest catch: 85lb Cobia, kayak diving. Destin, FL

Smallest catch (1st fish in NJ): Black Sea Bass, kayak diving. Monmouth, NJ

Size limit at the time was 10"

*Rick Cardet*

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings free-divers/spearos! The PEACE is offering an open boat single day free-dive trip this year to Santa Cruz Island - Friday, August 18. The cost of the trip is \$185.00 and limited to a maximum of 20 Divers. 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!



**PEACE**  
**DIVE BOAT**

Loren Story

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The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

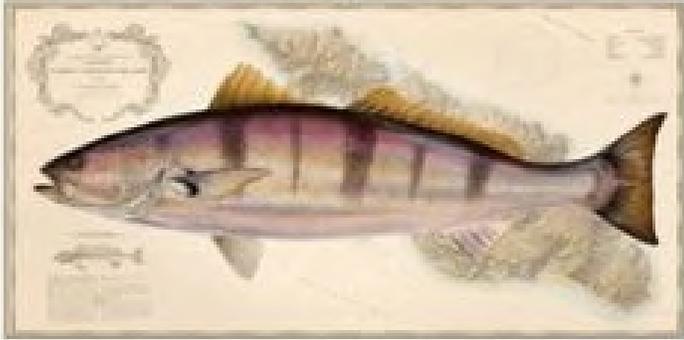
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