

THE T R I D D E N T



January 2024
Volume 1



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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:

Chris Yates, Taylor Yates and Jacob Seto

2024 CALENDAR

FISH STANDINGS

- Monthly Meeting Feb 7, 2024

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

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Open



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

February 7, 2024, 7:00PM



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

Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

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



The Prez Says

Happy New Year!!

I'm hoping this is reaching everybody in high spirits and good health. I am beyond honored to ring in 2024 serving as the Neptune's President.

The Board and I are stoked to organize some awesome events this year for everybody.

As you can see, I'm not much of a writer, but I'm definitely looking forward to getting out there with you guys and doing what we do!!

**Sincerely,
Richard Cunningham**

Dare to Share

Depending on your feedback, I'd like to make this a regular feature of this newsletter. Being so new to this sport I have tons of questions and I'm guessing some of our other members do too. I'm sure that with the thousands of years of collective experience of our members there's plenty of advice and answers to be shared. If you have advice or questions, please email them to me at bondc007@yahoo.com. I can include your name or not at your request.

Here's my biggest question: How the 8%S# can I learn to get my nerves under control. Every time I dive or even plan a dive I feel anxious, sometimes to the point of not even going diving. I generally calm down after several dives, but it takes a while. Has anybody experiences this and found effective methods at combatting their nerves?

Letter from the Editor

Greetings fellow Neptunes, for those of you I haven't yet met, my name is Craig Bond. I became a tentative in June 2023 and moved on to full member September 2023. I am very new to freediving, deciding to take up this sport just two years ago at the tender, young age of 61. I took up big game hunting just 6 months prior to that. Yay retirement!

Being a member of such a prestigious club as the Long Beach Neptunes is an honor I do not take lightly, and I have benefitted greatly from doing so. It's been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and benefitting from the camaraderie and wisdom the members have to offer.

I'm looking forward to putting out this newsletter each month and getting to know more of you through the process. I hope you will freely share your spearo successes, failures and lessons so that I can include them in the newsletter. Otherwise, it's going to be a lot of stories involving my grandchildren.

Cheers to 2024. Let's make it a great one.

Craig Bond



Honoring new life member

I was diving with Lyle Davis and Wes Morsey at West Cove. I'm not sure if Lyle was a member yet, but he had never shot a white seabass. It was nearly dusk and the diving day was just about over. Wes and I were on the boat, and we saw Lyle swimming our way with a fish. After a long swim, Lyle climbed aboard the boat with a very nice white seabass on his stringer. Once aboard, I could see the zipper on Lyle's wetsuit bulging at the chest. He was bursting with pride and was excited as hell over his first WSB. He was practically stuttering when he began to tell the story of how he shot the fish.



Wes, casually and with very little enthusiasm, said, " Nice white fish." I could see Lyle deflate almost immediately.

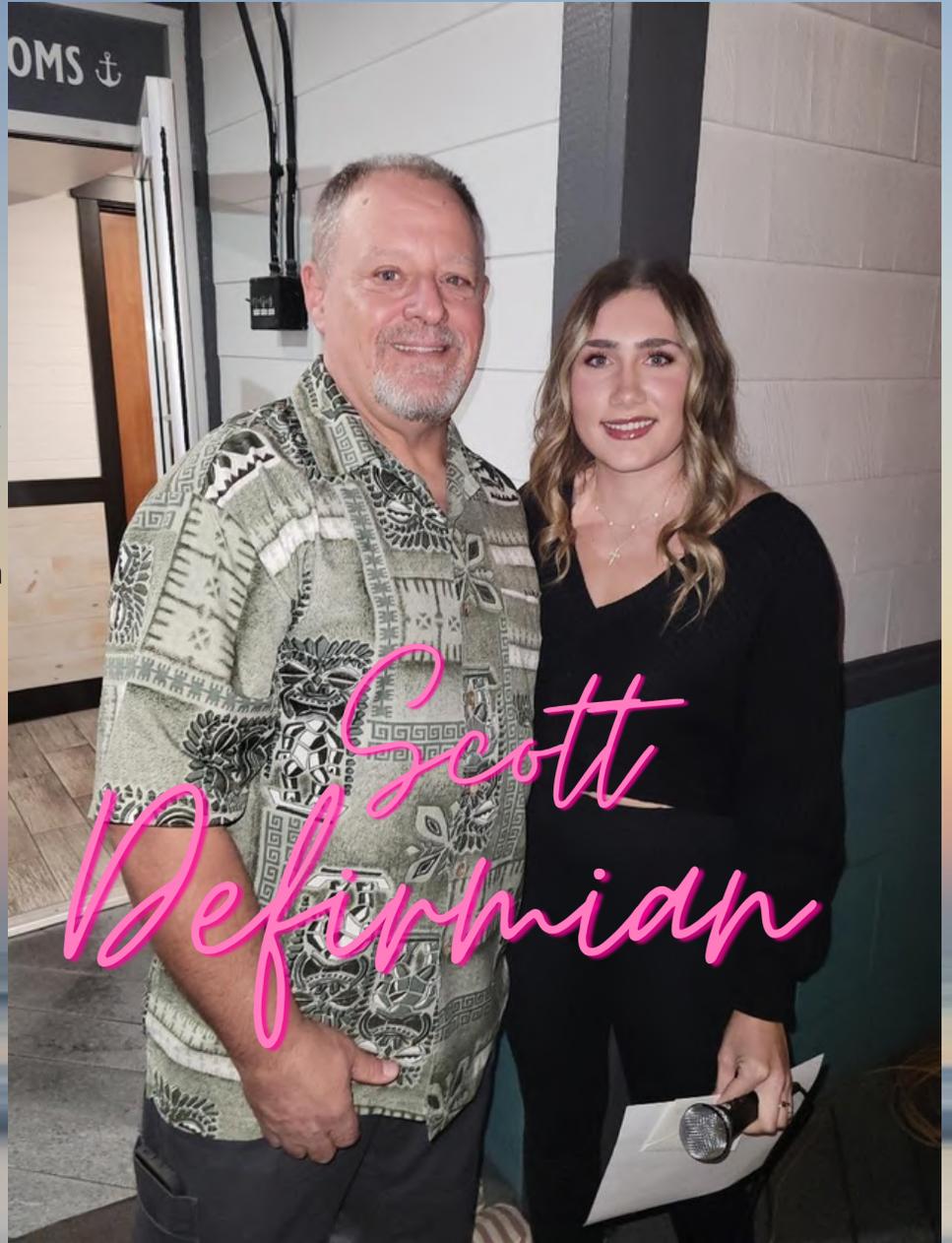
Lyle appeared to be emotionally crushed when he said, "Oh no, that's not a white seabass? That's a white fish!" Wes and I got a good laugh at Lyle's expense.

As told by Harry Ingram

Honoring new life member

I have one more story about Scott that's not especially funny, but it does showcase Scott's diving skills.

It was opening night for lobsters, and we were diving at Santa Barbara Island. The conditions were terrible: poor vis and rough water. I managed to bag one fairly small lobster and the other two Neptunes on board were skunked. Three of us were aboard when we saw Scott round the point that seperated rough water from very rough water. He had been diving in ugly water with strong surges and Maytag washing machine-like surface water.



We were all shocked when he returned to the boat with seven large lobsters. It was an amazing display diving and hunting skills

I have known Lyle and Scott for years. Both are deserving of being Life Members. They have always supported the club and have been contributing members for years. I'm proud to call them a fellow Neptunes and friends.

As told by Harry Ingram

Dick Jappe was an honored member of the Neptunes. He and his wife Diane were stalwart supporters of the club for many years. In 1953, while diving for the Muirmen, Dick became individual national spearfishing champion. A while after his Dicks' passing, his son and daughter sought me out to donate Dick's bound first editions of *Skin Diver Magazine* 1951-1959. In Dick's honor I will assemble Neptune news from each of these years. In its early years, *Skin Diver* was 100% devoted to spearfishing. The term *Skin Diver* referred to divers not encumbered with hard hats and commercial diving gear. The same year *Skin Diver* began publishing, the Long Beach Neptunes were formed when they separated from the Los Angeles Neptunes. The original 14 members grew to 45 by year's end. The interest of the club at that time was hunting large fish and competing in the National Spearfishing Championships.

THE SKIN DIVER

Volume I

December, 1951

Number 1

JIM AUXIER
EDITOR

CHUCK BLAKESLEE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Published at 11102 Virginia Avenue, Lynwood, California each month for the purpose of creating a further interest in skin diving and spearfishing and to provide an advertising medium for manufacturers and retail merchants of equipment used by underwater fishing and hunting enthusiasts. DEADLINE for advertising, feature material and photographs of January, 1952 issue — January 5.

This is an Editorial??

After several months of collecting material, ideas and data on our sport we are presenting to you this first issue of THE SKIN DIVER. You as a skin diver will find this magazine interesting from cover to cover because it was compiled, written and published with you as its reader. We hope you enjoy it.

The name of THE SKIN DIVER was picked because it includes everyone interested and participating in underwater fishing and hunting. Our polices are few and can be readily adjusted according to the trend or season. We make no claims on our journalistic talents therefore THE SKIN DIVER has many writers — all experts — not necessarily experts at writing but experts on the subject written about. If you have a message of interest to the skin diver notify us and we will be glad to publish it.

If your club or organization is not represented in this issue contact your publicity chairman and give him the word. We want to publish any and all items of interest to our skin diving readers, complete credit is given to authors and photographers. Club news is important to club members and also serves as a means of exchanging ideas and methods between the many skin diving clubs.

LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

(March)

By Richard D. Wollard

The Long Beach Neptunes is a brand new skin diving club, and is an affiliate of the Los Angeles Neptunes. For a long time, we who live in Long Beach and vicinity have felt that an affiliate organization closer to our homes would be more beneficial to skin diving in general because cooperation among members is much easier when they are from the same area, and we also feel that several small organizations can do more to promote our aims which are good sport and conservation, than a single large scattered club. So with the above thoughts in mind, a group of us met at the home of Gene and Dorothy Davies in early February and discussed the idea, and as a result the first regular meeting was held at "Doc" Mathison's home in Long Beach. "Doc" accepted a temporary position as president, with Gene Davies as vice president, and Dorothy Davies as secretary. These three have proved their capabilities as officers of the Los Angeles Neptunes, and we are fortunate to have the advantage of their experience. At the end of three months, an election will be held to determine who will be full term officers.

During the evening Dorothy Davies exhibited some excellent colored pictures of several local and Mexican skin diving trips. Discussion included officially expressing our opinion on the underwater lung question, and it was generally decided that we should find out the stand of other local skin diving organizations, and study the situation more closely, and in any event to cooperate with the majority. Also discussed were ideas for jackets for club members, and we are to bring samples to the next meeting for further consideration. We decided to have two club meetings each month, one at a regular meeting place, (member's homes for the present) and one at the beach.

The club is well started with fourteen active charter members, and is now open for new members. Dues are three dollars a year, and an applicant is required to attend five consecutive meetings before being accepted. Our next meeting is March the fourteenth at the home of Gene and Dorothy Davies, and interested parties may obtain further information by phoning Long Beach 20-6952. ▲



Mel Fisher and Doctor Nelson E. Mathison after a day in the "Skin Divers Paradise".

Right to the Point!



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Add excitement and interest to your underwater adventures with one of these fish getters. With the weather warming and the fish running, now is the time to order your equipment for the spring and summer season.

LONG BEACH (May) NEPTUNES

By R. D. Wollard

We of the Long Beach Neptunes held our monthly meeting April eleventh at Belmont Recreation Center at Belmont Shore, Long Beach. Dorothy Davies, secretary-treasurer of the club, has made arrangements to use the recreation center on the second Friday of each month for the balance of the year. There is practically unlimited seating capacity for meetings, tables for displays (or refreshments) and kitchen facilities. With a set up like this, and with our three month old club already operating in the black, we are enthusiastically looking forward to a swell summer.

Activity reports from members included sighting white sea bass near El Morro. Some members have been stocking up on Spider Crabs from the northern end of the Palos Verdes area. These horrible looking monstrosities are really delicious and very worthwhile carrying home.

"Doc" Mathison introduced his guest Mr. Alan Chan from Hawaii, who is an avid skin diver, and he gave us a very interesting description of spearfishing in Hawaii. He said that on the whole the fish to be found there are smaller and fewer than here, which he attributes to depletion by commercial fishing.



"Fish Sharks" are plentiful though, so-called because they appear from nowhere to take your fish from you after you have speared them. He also told of Moray Eels which attain lengths up to six feet, and of an encounter with one, and showed us a deep wicked scar on his forearm as a result of the encounter.

We discussed future trips and decided to go as a club to Catalina on May eleventh. In the meantime most of us plan to spend our diving time in local waters. We are accepting the offer of Gene and Dorothy Davies to use their telephone as a "checking-in-station"; that is any member planning to go skin diving anywhere anytime can call Gene and Dorothy and find out where other members are planning to be, or to invite company on a trip he has planned, or to check on water conditions.

"Doc" Mathison showed his "Now famous" color movies of skin diving at La Paz, Lower California, which we all enjoyed, and afterward the entire membership adjourned to the spacious kitchen for a bull session and coffee and much appreciated cakes thoughtfully contributed by the ladies.

We'll meet there again on the second Friday of May. All members are urged to bring along any old unwanted gear that they care to donate, which will be auctioned off to help build up the club treasury. Until then we will be looking for you on the beach. ♣

LONG BEACH (June) NEPTUNES

By R. D. (Red) Wollard

May was a very swell month for skin diving as far as the Long Beach Neptunes were concerned. The weather on the whole was just what we'd been waiting for, the ol' Pacific wasn't too bad, and we all had a lot of fun. We held a diving meet at Laguna on Sunday, April 27th, and Doc Mathison contributed two trophies, one for the largest fish, and one for the largest abalone. Herb Sampson won the fish trophy with a nice sized sheepshead, and Larry Korchak carried off the cup for the largest abalone. It was a swell day, and the only disappointment was that the Los Angeles Neptunes were there too, and proceeded to show us how to really spear fish. Anyway we learned a few pointers from the old masters and are looking forward to the next meet.

We held our regular monthly meeting Friday, May ninth at the Belmont Recreation Center. Two new members were voted into the club, having passed their requirements of attending five consecutive meetings. They are Larry Korchak and Bob Moore. They have the honor of being the first members to join the club other than the original charter members, and we are very glad to have them with us.

When we formed the Long Beach Neptunes, the officers Pro-Tem accepted their positions with the understanding that when we were well organized an election would be held to select officers for the balance of the year. Consequently, we held our election at this meeting. R. D. Wollard was elected president; Jim Christensen, vice president; Dorothy Davies, secretary-treasurer; Doc Mathison and Bob Kennedy, publicity committee; Laura Korchak and Patty Christensen, hostesses. I am very honored to have been selected president and will try very hard to continue the good work done by the gang that helped get the Long Beach Neptunes started so well.

After the election Doc Mathison showed us Phil Nourse's swell color movies of several nearby skin diving trips. Then we adjourned to the kitchen for refreshments and a good bull session.

Sunday, May eleventh was the highlight of the month's activities. We went to Catalina on the "Maray". Calm sea, "chamber of commerce" weather and good catches were the order of the day. Bud Flower, using a "lung" pulled a twenty-nine and a half pound sheepshead out of the depths. About sixty-five feet to be exact. Herb Sampson was in the water just as the boat was ready to leave for home, motors running and all, and was well occupied with his spear in a sheepshead, when he spotted a white sea bass that his experienced eye estimated to be on the big side of sixty pounds. He screamed frantically trying to get someone in the water with a spear, but it was too late. Oh well — that fish will probably be waiting for you next week, Herb. ♣

LONG BEACH (Aug) NEPTUNES

By "Doc" Mathison

The past few weeks have found the Long Beach Neptunes hitting their stride in the water. Larry Reeder started the ball rolling with a 25 pound white sea bass June 8. Herb Sampson takes credit for three white sea bass in two days. Jim Christiansen, two white sea bass in one day and a hundred pound black bass the week previous. "Doc" Mathison returning from Key West, Florida where he speared tarpon, snook and jewfish. He and Mel Fisher averaged over a thousand pounds of fish a day for a three day period.

Jim's story on the black sea bass was that he saw it while looking for other fish with his Arbalete and as the fish passed under him on its way out to deep water Jim took a careful shot and hit it in the spine just behind the head, there was a short run with Jim hanging on for dear life and as the fish slowed down Jim got his hand under the gill plate and was able to push and pull the big fish over to the boat before it had recovered from the paralyzing shot. Nice work Jim, I know that you as a real skin diver must be very happy with your new boat and your success in the water. ♣



LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

BY DR. NELSON E. MATHISON

Long Beach Neptunes enjoyed two fine months of spearfishing and publicity. The August National Championships at Laguna found our eight months old club taking second place. The team is already in training for next year and those who are elected will be satisfied with nothing else but first place. Many thanks to Ralph and Connie Davis for sparking this annual event and for the fine way in which the meet was run off. We hope that the professional angle will be straightened out and that only those who actually make their living spearing fish underwater will be classified as professionals. We also hope that we have some competition from the Florida skin divers in our next Nationals. Let me warn bath tub water divers that in California the water is cold, usually muddy and the fish are very scarce and spooky, ask Major McDougall if you don't believe me.

Long Beach Neptunes were one of the teams invited to put on a Frogman demonstration at the Los Angeles County Fair pool along with the Rod and Reel men who were to demonstrate the art of casting a line for accuracy. We were also on the television water show for fifteen minutes and the whole affair was a great success and we gained much favorable publicity for the skin divers. At the Ocean Fish Protective Association meeting, president Bob Ketcham called for a vote of thanks from the 200 delegates present, but asked us next time not to "steal the show" from the Rod and Reel men.

Proctor's Sporting Goods store in Long Beach has a fine window display of the Long Beach Neptunes diving gear as well as club pictures, shells and a mounted seventeen pound lobster. It is attracting many people because it is so unusual and again helping to promote favorable publicity.

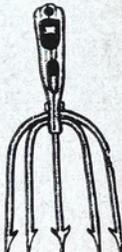
Our last beach meet was held at Laguna October 5th. It was a good day and for the first time we got a fine catch of fish. Larry Reeder caught a seventeen pound White Sea Bass, Craig Backus a ten pound Cabezone and Dr. Mathison caught a 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound sheepshead. A few calico bass were caught as well as abalone and lobster. How about some club meets with other clubs? Let's get together and have some fun and competition. We now have 45 active members in our club and five new members have signed up so that our club limit of fifty members will be filled and any new prospective members will have to be put on a waiting list. At our last meeting Dick Stratton, Richard Walkem and Cliff Worden were voted in. ✎

BOTTOM—Herb Sampson, Long Beach Neptune, with a 44 pound White Sea Bass taken at Ship Rock, Catalina. Mart Toggweiler photo.

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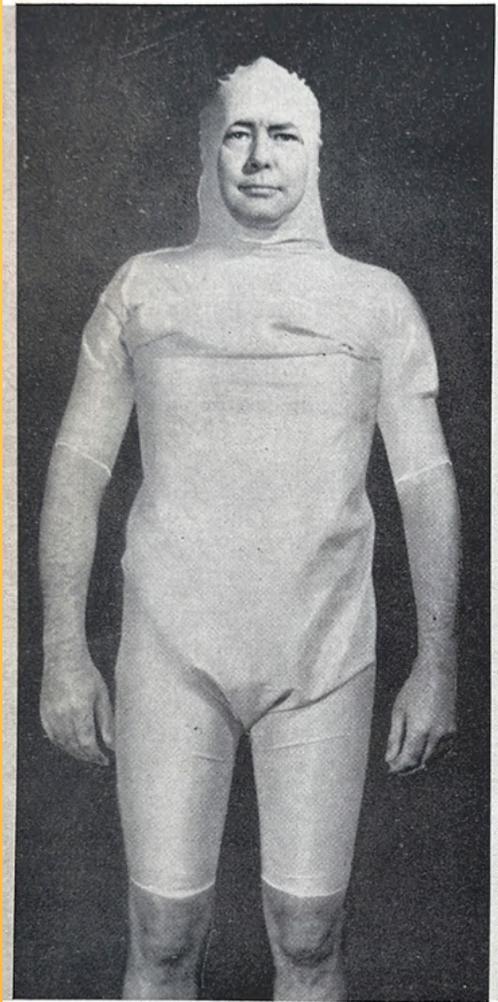
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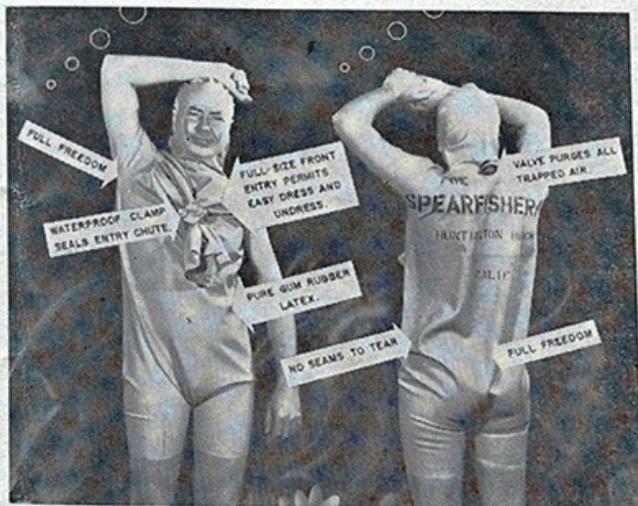
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AUGUST 17, 1952
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Winners: THE SEA DOWNERS
Second Place: LONG BEACH NEPTUNES
Third Place: MUIRMEN

RIGHT — LONG BEACH NEPTUNES, 2nd place winners. Left to right are Larry Reeder, Herb Sampson and holding the Rene Bussoz trophy, Dr. N. E. Mathison. The Neptunes total weight was 44 pounds, 5¾ ounces. After four hours in the water they can still smile.





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