



FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER

• FREEDIVING • SPEARFISHING • COMPETITION

January 1999

CALENDAR

CLUB MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 11

The January Fathomiers Club meeting will be held at the Round Table Pizza on the south-east corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and Redondo Beach Blvd.

FATHOMIERS COMPETITION – SUNDAY, January 24

The January meet will be at 1000 steps in Laguna Beach. Do not bring a kayak unless you are a masochist! Three (3) fish meet. Start time: 8:30

AWARDS BANQUET – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The annual banquet will be held (date still tentative) at the Redondo Beach Elks Lodge. Call Paul Romanowski with food commitments and to confirm date.

PAY YOUR CLUB DUES!!!!

Pay your 1999 dues to Eddie Ota who is filling in for Bob Sellers.

Remember your 1999 fishing licenses.

1998 Awards Banquet

The last awards banquet was a great success and will again be held at the Redondo Beach Elks lodge at Veteran's Park in Redondo Beach on the corner of Torrance Blvd. And Catalina. Get ready to cook. If you can't cook, than KFC will be acceptable. Menu commitments will be taken at the January meeting.

The banquet will provide an excellent opportunity to reminisce and to enjoy the evening with family and friends.

MAJOR 1999 EVENTS

Feb 27	Awards Banquet
June 5	Blue Water Meet
July 10	Omar Neilson Meet
July 30	U.S. Nationals
Aug 7	Scramble Meet
Oct 2	Charlie Sturgill Meet
Nov 14	Larry Staat Meet

New Club Officers

At the December meeting, we elected new club officers (saps!).

PRESIDENT: Paul Romanowski

VICE PRESIDENT: Jose Shaur

SECRETARY: Mitch Walker

RECORDER: Richard Balta

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Scott de Firmian

Jim Losey

Louis Rosales

Continuing Officers

(old saps!)

Treasurer: Bob Sellers

Conservation Liaison:

Gary Thompson

THE FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER IS THE
OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES FATHOMIERS

The Fathomiers is a Southern California club dedicated to
Freediving and Competitive Spearfishing.

Membership is open to the public. To become an Active member, you
must fulfill obligations and conditions. You can also become an Associ-
ate Member for \$20. Contact the Fathomiers for further information.

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The editor reserves the right to make spelling and grammatical corrections to sub-
missions, and may rewrite sections for purposes of clarity and/or space consid-
erations. The intent and meaning of submissions shall be maintained as closely as pos-
sible. Anyone who has submitted an article may request a preview of their article as
it will appear in the publication. At that time the submitter may request changes or
withdrawal of the article. The editor and the club officers will determine which sub-
missions to include and which to exclude. While reasonable effort is expended to
ensure accuracy of the information in this newsletter, we do not guarantee it. The
editor, and the Fathomiers and it's officers, shall not be held liable for errors in this
newsletter. The Fathomiers do not accept paid advertisements.

Submissions are needed. Articles or information may be mailed, emailed, or com-
municated over the phone. Articles and photos may be dropped off at All Sports for
the newsletter. Photographs submitted will be returned to the owner after publica-
tion. Please take the initiative to contact me or to send me materials. If you have
information for the newsletter, do not depend on "word of mouth" to get it to me.

Gear Tips

A new section! As a service to all members, we will be featuring a
monthly gear tip which will relate to all aspects of freediving and
spearfishing. These tips will come from some of the top freedivers
in the world... THE FATHOMIERS! So, guys, send in your tips,
tricks and suggestions.

January's Gear Tip Rigging Mono and Cable

By Don Stuckey

I believe that most of us, at one time or another, have had prob-
lems with rigging failures. I would like to mention a few things that
may save fish and gear. As a sport fisher and spear fisher, I have
learned a few tricks which work for me and may save a fish or a
\$100 shaft.

First, if using mono line, use the best you can afford. If It is only
weed-eater line, use the best (hardest, toughest, stiffest) you can
afford. Poor mono stretches and slips through crimps too easily for
our use. Use the correct size crimp (I prefer double bbl crimps),
and use a crimper meant for big game type crimps (Hi-Seas or Mo-
moi come to mind).

Use two crimps and after sliding them on but before crimping
melt the cut end of the mono with a lighter. You want a bead of
swollen mono that will not pull through the crimp. Next, apply a dab
of super glue to the line and slide the crimp up to the bead w/o
touching it (you don't want the edge of the crimp to cut the bead off
during rough use). Crimp the metal crimps tight but not to the point
of mashing the mono. Slide the second crimp up to the first one but
leave enough space so that as that sleeve is crimped it forms a bulge
of mono between the crimps. Again use super glue and crimp (I use
two squeezes side by side on each sleeve). When crimping, always
stay away from the edge of the crimp. If you crimp a little ways from
the end, it will flare the end of the crimp and like a miniature funnel,
it keeps the mono from passing over a metal rim and being cut.

If you are attaching the mono to a metal fin or slide ring etc., use
a line protector. I prefer the spiral spring style chaff tube rather than
a thimble as there is NO way it can pop out like thimbles can. If it is
a tight fit slipping the line through, use a little lubricant (non petro-
leum). The resulting connection is about as foolproof as I have
found. Where the shooting line attaches to the gun I use a big Game
snap swivel rated at 300 lbs. at least. It certainly is easier on the fish
to disconnect the line and slide the fish off than rip it out. Being
able to remove your fish with the slightest damage can save a big
mess and lost tissue and blood, and it could even be the difference
between winning and losing. Sometimes, meets are determined by an
ounce or less and that ounce could be on the end of your spear!

Another common material for use in connecting shafts, spears,
slip tips, guns etc. is stainless steel cable. I have for some time had
less than great success coming up with a Stainless steel cable connec-
tion that was clean and strong w/o a commercial crimper. Lately,
however, I have found the following method to work well for me.

Use a good quality crimp that is NOT aluminum. Placing aluminum
in a acid bath (ocean) while crimped around a dissimilar metal leads
to the less noble metal being eaten up by corrosion. Use copper,
brass or s.s. crimps.

To get a good tight crimp use the best hand crimper you can af-
ford or borrow. For s.s. crimps I use a crimper purchased from West
Marine that is a spring loaded free standing crimper that you strike
with a hammer to crimp. It is under \$20. A good source of s.s. ca-
ble is OSH hardware. They have several sizes and it is less expen-
sive, by the foot than most marine or tackle stores.

When you are ready to make a loop in your cable, run the wire through the crimp, bend it back and through the crimp again. Now don't crimp yet! make sure that the crimp is a snug fit. Try the connection on whatever it will be next to. You may need a tight loop or the crimp itself may need to be moved to allow the line to lay flat to reduce drag. When you are sure of the placement mark it with a marker so it does not move w/o your knowing.

The end of the s.s. cable where it protrudes from the crimp has always been my Waterloo. S.S. cable does not solder well, and the heat necessary to do a good job of penetrating the cable also weakens and spreads the strands. Leaving a short length of unaltered cable sticking out leads to bleeding fingers, cursing and constant snagging. If you crimp the end inside of the crimp it will pull loose under strain. Here is my solution: if the cable is at all dirty, clean it first with acetone or solvent before crimping. Take a two-part epoxy (they are available in a two tube set that is mixed equal parts and they come in various drying times and applications. Before crimping mix a couple drops of epoxy together well and apply to the end of the cable. Allow some to enter the crimp, than using your marks on the cable reposition and crimp snugly. As the crimp is snugged the short protruding wires spread a little. Cover them with the epoxy forming a bead over the end. Allow to dry and you have a very clean cable connection. If the cable is to be used to connect a slip tip to a shaft it should be slipped through a length of heat-shrink tubing first and then shrunk to fit. This prevents the cable from sawing through a soft fleshed fish. In Pasadena Ca. there is a surplus store on Colorado blvd. that sells heat shrink by the foot in dia. up to one inch! They also have s.s. crimps and all kinds of useful crap that us guys love and women hate! I believe it is called C&H surplus.

1999 LA Fathomiers Schedule

Mon. Jan 11 Meeting	Sat. Sept 11 GLACD #2 Elim
Sun. Jan 24 Club dive (1000 steps)	Sun. Sept 12 Club dive
Sat Feb 20 Banquet	Mon. Sept. 13 Meeting (Vote on new members)
@ Redondo Elks club (tentative)	Sat. Oct 2 Charlie Sturgill Pole spear meet
Sun Feb 21 Club dive	Sat. Oct 9 PCC'a (Date tentative)
Mon. March 8 Meeting (Vote on new members)	Sun. Oct 10 Club dive (Possible reschedule due to conflict)
Sun. March 14 Club dive	Mon. Oct 11 Meeting (Nominate Life member)
Sun April 11 Club dive	Sun. Nov. 7 Club dive
Mon. April 12 Meeting	Mon. Nov 8 Meeting (Nominate officers)
Mon. May 10 Meeting	Sun. Nov 14 Larry Staat Polespear meet
Sun May 16 Club dive	Sun. Dec 5 Club dive
Sat. June 5 blue water meet	Mon. Dec 13 Meeting (Elect officers)
Sun. June 13 Club dive	
Mon. June 14 Meeting/ Auction	
Sat. July 10 Omar Neilson meet	
Sun. July 11 Club dive	
Mon. July 12 Meeting	
Fri. July 30 US Nationals	
Sat. Aug. 7 Scramble meet	
Mon. Aug 9 Meeting	
Sat. Aug 14 GLACD #1 Elim.	
Sat./Sun. Aug 21,22	
Bill Kroll meet	

Anticipation Part II

By Scott de Firmian

It was a morning like many others, calm seas, clear skies and the air filled with anticipation; anticipation of potential things to come. As we approached the east end of Catalina the anticipation mounted as it always does when you get near places that have provided lots of fish and excitement in the past, but today we had decided to go past Catalina to San Clemente. With about 25'-30' vis, we jumped in, but went our own way as wsb hunters often do. For the first 30-40 minutes I didn't see any game fish until a small wsb appeared. It was then that I noticed he had a friend which I kept following until he got tired of my company and left me alone with my thoughts in open blue water. It was then that I turned and saw their big brother. I think he was about 45 lbs., we were alone, and he was broadside. I moved into range, set up for the drop of the shaft, aimed and fired. He turned froze and smiled as the missile flew past harmlessly.

I then had to locate Peter and tell him what had just transpired. After another 30 minutes of no sightings, we decided to move 300 yards.; same entry as before, but this time I was going off to my right when something told me to go to my left. Shortly after, I gave in the nagging voice in my head. As I turned left, a beautiful fish came swimming toward me. I was on the surface as the fish came around the outside of the kelp pad ten feet below my gun. I took the shot and struck the fish squarely in the head. On impact, the fish bolted, then froze about 20 feet away and started to sink. I could see that my shaft had passed clean through and the slip tip was ready to do its thing. While still on the surface, I pulled the shooting line and the fish woke up and made one last dive for the kelp and spun around about ten times at 25 feet or so. Splash one 44 pound wsb!

The day has started out well and I didn't want to waste it, so I moved again about 300 yards to the north. This time I didn't see any fish, but I was able to hear that unmistakable "ka chink". Yep, Peter was on! We met at the boat and Peter had landed another nice WSB. Splash two!

It was time to move again another 300 yards. This time, just as I got in the water and loaded my gun I saw a WSB right next to the boat. I aimed, fired and struck. This time I got him a bit low and the fish did a 180 which gave me the view of my poor shot. I didn't want to lose him so I gave all the line it took, but still found an empty shaft at the end of my line...#@\$%!*&...UGH!!!

As it was getting late, Peter said that he wanted to get some yellowtail so I told him of a spot that had been good to me in the past. We anchored in 75 feet of water. As we entered the purple blue water, we were engulfed by clouds of blacksmiths and the water felt "right". Less than forty minutes later Peter and I had boated 5 yellowtail up to 20 pounds which completely filled the 128 quart cooler which I had brought. We looked at each other and smiled as we both said "plenty of fish, let's go home."

FATHOMIERS 1998 "IN CALIFORNIA" RECORDS

SPECIES	LBS	OZ	DIVER	LOCATION
Barracuda	6	8	Bob Dawson	Santa Barbara Is.
Bonita	10	0	Ed Glass	San Clemente Is.
Cabazon	9	0	Scott de Firmian	Mendocino
Calico Bass	9	0	Rene Rojas	Catalina
Corbina	2	3	Bob Dawson	La Jolla
Dorado	15	0	Scott de Firmian	Catalina Is.
Halibut	29	10	Todd Bergenbring	Palos Verdes
White Seabass	53	0	Todd Bergenbring	San Nicholas is.
Sand Bass	7	3	Paul Romanowski	John Raya's
Sheephead	26	2	Paul Romanowski	John Raya's
Triggerfish	4	8	Fil Labastida	Point Dume
Yellowtail	28	0	Scott de Firmian	San Clemente Is.
Abalone, Red	10"	0	Nelson Dooley	Mendocino
Lobster	9	5	Mitch Walker	Reef Point
Scallop	7	¹ / ₁₆	Mitch Walker	Reef Point
Vermillion Rockfish	5	5	Gerald Lim	San Simeon

These are the final 1998 records. The only change has been the monster red abalone which Nelson cornered in Mendocino. The ab died of fright because Nelson was diving naked. Congradulations to all record holders. If there are any discrepancies, or new entries, please notify the recorder.

FATHOMIERS 1998 "OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA" RECORDS

SPECIES	LBS	OZ	DIVER	LOCATION
Gulf Grouper	75	0	Steve Sanford	Baja, Bay of LA
Snapper, dog tooth	56	0	Gerald Lim	Baja, La Paz
Striped Bass	22	0	Gerald Lim	Willow Beach
Yellowtail	48	0	Al Schnepershoff	Baja, Turtle Bay

**DECEMBER CLUB DIVE
10 FISH MEET AT**

Place	Name	Fish	Weight	Percentage
1st	Richard Balta	6	8.76	100.00%
2nd	Mitch Walker	-	6.86	87%
3rd	Austin Ellis	-	5.86	67%
4th	Erez Abayov	-	4.14	55%
5th	Tyler Dubberley	-	3.06	34%
6th	Filbert Lahastida	-	1.78	26%
7th				
8th				
9th				
10th				

Biggest fish: Richard Balta, 2.5lb. Opaleye

AL SCHUCK

Diver	Points
Richard Balta	1

The diver who gets the biggest fish in a regular Fathomiers meet gets one point towards the Al Schuck standings. The diver must be a current Active Fathomiers member to win the trophy. The first diver to accumulate 4 points wins the trophy. Then the points start over again.

Eddie Ota won the last trophy in October of 1998.

FATHOMIERS 1998 FINAL (COMPETITIVE) STANDINGS

Place	Driver	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Final
1st	Eddie Ota	100.0	---	----	100.0	67.92	100.0	----	0	45.16	100.00	100.0		515.08
2nd	Phil Labastida	59.26	0	61.44	50.52	----	83.89	----	0	45.84	67.15	51.56	26.0	403.66
3rd	Mitch Walker	----	---	----	----	----	57.88	100.0	----	58.81	42.54	52.16	87.0	558.59
4th	Carlos Sured	59.84	---	54.00	0	26.42	0	20.21	90.0	0	54.55	----		284.85
5th	Cisco Sured	65.94	---	67.66	0	52.85	58.29	----	14.4	0	44.59	----		281.52
6th	Richard Balta	----	---	----	16.68	----	----	----	0	----	88.52	52.67	100.	257.87
7th	Marcos Pardo	----	---	----	----	100.0	90.96	----	59.5	----	----	----		250.52
8th	Jim Lacey	----	---	100.0	0	67.92	----	----	0	----	----	22.10		190.02
9th	Bob Dawson	----	---	----	15.50	----	89.56	44.07	0	0	----	----		147.15
10th	Edu. Abayo	----	---	----	24.11	----	42.52	----	0	----	6.56	----	55.0	127.99
11th	Gary Thompson	69.79	---	----	----	56.60	----	----	----	----	----	----		126.39
12th	Dustin Ellis	----	---	----	----	----	----	18.24	----	55.29	----	----	67.0	120.55
13th	Iyla Dubberty	----	---	----	----	49.06	17.26	----	----	----	----	----	54.0	100.52
14th	Scott de Plinlan	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	100.0	----	----		100.00
15th	Paul Komarsowski	60.62	---	----	28.56	----	----	----	0	----	----	----		88.98
16th	Doug Van Mullem	85.96	---	----	----	----	----	----	0	0	----	----		85.96
17th	Skip Helten	----	---	----	----	84.91	----	----	0	----	----	----		84.91
18th	Stathis Kostopoulos	----	---	----	----	56.60	----	----	----	----	26.14	----		82.74
19th	Howard Sastou	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	60.4	----	----	----		60.49
20th	Thom Fogarty	52.63	0	----	0	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		52.63
21st	Nelson Doolcy	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	49.00	----		49.00
22nd	Al Schneppershoff	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	0	----	----	----		48.61
23rd	Bill Cantanni	----	---	----	----	26.42	----	----	----	----	----	----		26.42
24th*	Yveson Lora	----	---	----	----	----	21.04	----	----	----	----	----		21.04
25th	Zello Velazquez	----	---	----	19.17	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		19.17
26th	Gerald Lim	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	17.9	----	----	----		17.99
27th	Louis Kosales	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	12.52	----	----		12.52
28th*	Steve Marshall	----	---	----	0----	9.45	0----	----	----	----	----	----		9.45
29th*	Rodney Wilson	----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	11.75	----		4.56

* prospective/non member

Eddie Ota ran away from the crowd to win the first place competitive trophy for the second year in a row, while Mitch Walker and Richard Balta made their presence known with some impressive showings late in the year. Get ready for a changing of the guard!

CHECK YOUR SCORES!

ATTENTION

THERE WILL BE A FEBRUARY

MEETING AT ROUND TABLE

PIZZA ON FEB 8 1999 AT 7:30PM

PLEASE ATTEND

*FINALIZE FOOD FOR BANQUET

*FINALIZE TROPHIES

A Final Thought

In Remembrance of our lost brothers.

Steve Wayne Redding

Tommy McCain

Richard Tedesco

Sarp Kayan

Clyde Kasahara

We will never forget you.