



FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER

FREEDIVING SPEARFISHING COMPETITION APRIL 1999

**The World's Best
Diving Club
Since 1957**

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STANDINGS AND AL SCHUCK POINT

Classified Section!!

Remember to send in your advertisements for any old dive gear which you can no longer use. We need ads.

Eddie Ota wins the march dive and closes in on Richard Balta in the Al Schuck point race with a 49.2 lb. White Sea Bass.

This year the San Diego Freedivers will be dedicating the 5th annual Blue Water Meet to the memory of Tommy McCain who died in the tragic accident on Mexico's Hwy 1.

Club Meeting-May 10

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

Fathomiers Club Meeting/Auction

Monday June 14

The June Meeting is the annual auction. Bring any old (or new) dive gear to the meeting. This is a major fund raiser for the club and an excellent opportunity to pick up some gear which you need and makes your wife cringe.

MAJOR 1999 EVENTS

JUNE 5 BLUE WATER MEET

JUN 24-30 LA PAZ BLUE WATER MEET

JULY 10 OMAR NELSON MEET

JULY 30 U.S. NATIONALS

AUG 7 SCRAMBLE MEET

AUG 28 SAN DIEGO FREEDIVERS
5TH ANNUAL BLUE WATER MEET
DEDICATED TO TOMMY MCCAIN

OCT 2 CHARLIE STURGILL MEET

NOV 14 LARRY STAAT MEET

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 submissions, and may rewrite sections for purposes of clarity and/or space considerations. The intent and meaning of submissions shall be maintained as closely as possible. 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 submissions 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 its 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 communicated over the phone. Articles and photos may be dropped off at Team Sports for the newsletter. Photographs submitted will be returned to the owner after publication. 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.

One of the best tips is to build two guns at once. One gun

Thankyou

The editors would like to thank those of you that have contributed thus far and to remind you that we are still in great need of diving stories tips etc. so we can make your newsletter as good as is possible. Contributions are easiest to use if they are in computer form (e-mail, word processor etc.) but any contribution is more than welcome.

Gear Tips:

So You Want To Build A Gun?

By Louis Rosales

Building something, like a speargun, can be one of the more time consuming but rewarding complements to our addiction. I am in the midst of building my first gun so I don't consider myself an expert. Fortunately, however, there are many expert Fathomier gun builders. What I will try to do in this article is to briefly pass on some of the tips, which seem to be most useful and, hopefully, point someone with even less experience than me in the right direction. I still recommend the advice and help, which you can gather from the many people in the club who have built their own guns.

The first step, after deciding what size and type of gun to make, is to decide upon the wood, which will be used. Price, effectiveness and appearance are three of the main considerations when choosing the wood. I asked Mori to explain some of the advantages and disadvantages of different types of wood. He explained that as a tree grows, it adds rings. These "sap rings" are porous and absorb water. Unlike other woods, teak has a large concentration of oil in these sap rings which, combined with the high density, make it highly resistant to water. This unique property of teak makes it, by far, the most prized wood for quality spearguns, but other hardwoods, exotic and not so exotic, frequently find their way into a diver's hands in search of fish. Probably the second most frequently used wood is mahogany, which is, perhaps, one half the cost of teak and also more readily available, Mori emphasizes that you must be careful to use real mahogany, which is Honduran mahogany. Some of the other types of mahogany which you should stay away from are Filipino, or "Luan" and Malaysian mahogany.

If you would like to experiment with other types of wood, definitely stay away from oak and bubinga, but holly, maple and walnut are ok. Joe Kalohi is currently building a gun out of Purple Heart and you may also want to experiment with an exotic hardwood to give your gun that unique personal touch. If you do decide to use something other than teak, you will need to take more care finishing due to the lower oil content.

Regardless of the type of wood, there can be a great deal of variance from piece to piece. Look for a piece that has the straightest possible grain is very dense and has a lot of natural oil. In addition, consider the size of the gun, which you will be making. It may seem obvious, but the wood has to be the right size, thickness and length, to make your gun. If you are going to laminate, the wood, you will gain some strength due to the breakup of the sap lines which is where the wood tends to split and Kitto says it allows the use of lower quality wood. In addition, you also run the risk of delamination, especially if you try to laminate two different types of wood. He once made the mistake of laminating teak and bubinga to make a gun, but it was a disaster because the two types of wood expanded at different rates when wet and the gun delaminated.

should be built from pine and the other from your good wood. Each time you make a cut, groove or hole, use the pine as a test piece to make sure that you have everything set up correctly. Since you are building the two guns simultaneously, the dimensions will always be the same and if it is set up properly for the pine gun, it will be set up properly for the teak gun. In addition, if you make a mistake on a \$3.00 piece of pine it won't hurt as much as if you made the mistake on a \$50.00 piece of wood! Without the test piece, it is virtually impossible to precisely set up a router cut. Also, if you are somewhat inexperienced with the tools the pine gives you a few practice cuts.

The first step in the actual construction of the gun is to square the block. This can be done on a good table saw or planer and is an extremely important step because each of the following steps rely on the accuracy of the block. If your wood is crooked, you will have a crooked track. If you don't have access to a table saw or planer, you should be able to get a shop to cut and plane the wood for you. Most of the remaining work can be done on a router table.

The next steps, cutting the track, cutting the compartment for the mechanism and installing the handle and pushrod all require the use of a router table.

How you cut the track will depend upon whether you intend to use an open or enclosed track. The accuracy is much more critical for the enclosed track and I would suggest consulting someone that has made them in the past. I will not try to explain how to do it here. The open track is relatively simple. You only need to determine the shaft diameter and then use the corresponding diameter round router bit. The groove should be one half the diameter of the shaft and the diameter + 1/64 wide. The most important thing is that the shaft should be seated firmly and that the groove provides proper guidance without binding and impeding the shot. If the shaft seems to slide freely without excessive wobble, you probably have it close enough.

Next on the list is the cavity for the mechanism. How you install the mechanism and handle will depend upon what type of mechanism and handle you use. For your first gun it would probably be easiest to buy a mech. (Alexander, Riffe, or some other commercially available mech.), but you may also want to build your own mechanism. Either way, you will need to build the cavity around the mechanism. The first step will involve routing out the compartment so that your mech. fits snugly, is well centered and has enough depth. After the cavity has been made, the mounting holes must be drilled with either a hand drill or, preferably, a drill press. The mechanism must be centered, but more critical is the height. If you are off a little bit, it is better to be slightly high. If the holes are too low, the shaft will not go into the mechanism. That could ruin your whole day!

After the cavity is complete and the trigger mechanism has been located, you will need to install the pushrod if you plan on making a midhandled gun or if not, than all you have to do is to install the handle and trigger. For a midhandle gun, you will need a pushrod, which can be constructed out of 1/8" stainless steel. The exact construction will vary, but the rod will move when you pull the trigger and push against the triggermechanism releasing the spear.

To finish the gun we only need to install the handle, cover the pushrod with a "cap" of wood and cut the band slot. The band slot can also be done with a router table. It should be as high as possible without cutting into the groove and large enough to fit your bands snugly. Installation of the handle could be very simple if using a commercially available handle. The Alexander handle just has a few screws. If you are installing your own handle, the installation will depend on your design.

The final step is to weight your gun. Put the shaft, with the tip you plan to use, in the gun and place your new creation into the bathtub. Use fishing weights to get the right balance and then weight the gun with corresponding amounts of buckshot and plug the holes.

If you used teak, all that remains is to sand the gun and apply teak oil. If you used another type of wood you will need to finish with a high quality marine finish such as Smith's Epoxy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

By Mitch Walker

Minutes 3/99

Meeting called to order 7:30

Old business:

1

New business:

1.

"GENERAL SPEARFISHING TIPS"

By Orlando Delgado

I have collected the following tips over the years. Some are common sense and others are very interesting. Some appear in my text regarding hunting certain species, but I will list them here in the order they were entered in my log:

- a. Whenever possible, it is best to shoot a fish that is angled away from you, so that the spearhead can slide between the scales and penetrate the body.
- b. Strumming the rubbers on your gun with your fingers may cause some Yellowtail to come closer. Splashing the surface with your hand can cause the same effect.
- c. You can paralyze a fish by grabbing it by the eye sockets. Well???????
- d. Remove crank from gun reel. It could catch line.
- e. Remove safety. It will usually be accidentally "on" when that 90 pound White Seabass swims by.
- f. Never make eye contact with a fish, Dive at an angle to the fish if spotted from the surface and casually make your way around.
- g. Remove snorkel from your mouth before you dive to prevent noisy bubbles.
- h. Don't use large quad muscles in your legs while cruising underwater. Use for the ascent (Conserves oxygen).
- i. Reels on guns are best for hunting in kelp. Use trail-line for blue-water hunting.
- j. Speargun must float when fired. Wood guns are preferred.
- k. Don't play big fish. Subdue as soon as possible,
 1. You should be within 10 feet of fish to make good kill shot.
- m. Carry a second gun on your float or boat, If you shoot a large fish and it tangles in kelp, use second gun to reshoot fish. Then cut line to first gun, retrieve fish and pull on tangled line to free.
- n. Shoot fish from the bottom. Fish will be upside down when you surface and pull line.
- o. When pulling in a big fish from a boat, pull line into a bucket or tub.

Pick a spot on the fish the size of a coin and concentrate on that spot when you shoot. "Don't look at the whole fish!"
- q. Keep your line and gun away from you after shooting fish,
- r. When crimping monofilament, run through sleeve, burn end, then pull back and crimp.
- s. Double crimp mono at shaft and slide ring. Single crimp at head (Slip tip),
- t. Let the fish be the aggressor and approach you. He will come closer if he thinks you are backing away from him.
- u. In important competitions start scouting area about a month before the day of competition.
 - V. When scouting, look which way fish flee when spooked of off a reef. If you check the reef the day of the competition and the fish are not there, look in the area that the fleeing fish went.
- w. Fish will move with the tides. The fish that were in the shallow reef on the incoming tide might be on a deeper reef on the outgoing tide. Tides are very important.
- x. When hunting Lingcod, leave one small live fish on your

These tips represent only a small fraction of what goes into the successful stalking, shooting and landing of a fish, The preparation of mind, body and equipment is crucial if you want to be a productive hunter time after time.

"GOOD LUCK"

METEOROLOGICA

Weather -

Los Angeles (213) 544-1212, Santa Barbara (805) 897-1942

Surf Reports -

Ventura (805) 644-8338 and (805) 962-7873, , Zuma (310) 457-9701, Malibu (310) 457-9701, Hermosa (310) 379-8471, Cabrillo Beach (310) 832-1130, Orange County (714) 650-5783.

Online NOAA Redondo Beach Bouy -

http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46045

Online Surf Cams -

<http://www.hbonline.com/bchcams.htm>

Online Surf Forecast -

<http://www.ocregister.com/ads/ocean/surf.html>

Online Tide Tables -

<http://facs.scripps.edu/cgi-bin/tidegen.pl>

Online Southern California Swell Model

<http://cdip.ucsd.edu/models/wave.model.html>

Online Global Wam Forcast (Unclassified)

<http://152.80.56.202/wam.html>

BOB SELLERS RETIRES!

After years of dedicated service, Bob Sellers is retiring from his post as Club Treasurer. Eddie Ota, who has been filling in as acting Treasurer, will take over on a permanent basis.

Bob, who has been a member since march 1959, has worked tirelessly as the Treasurer for longer than most people can remember. As most people know, Bob had back surgery this past year and has decided to let Eddie take over.

We, the Fathomiers, would like to thank Bob for all of his past contributions to the club and look forward to his future contributions in whatever function he chooses.



Thanks Bob!!

FATHOMIERS 1999 "IN CALIFORNIA" RECORDS

SPECIES	LBS	OZ	DIVER	LOCATION
White Seabass	76	9.6	Todd Bergenbring	Palos Verdes
California Sheephead	25	2	Richard Balta	Laguna Beach

Once again, we would like to congratulate Todd Bergenbring on his achievement of a lifetime.

Turn in those records: If you have a record, in California or outside California, notify Richard Balta.

Fathomiers 1999 Competitive

CHECK YOUR SCORES!

Place	Diver	Jan	Feb	March	Current
1st	Richard Balta	100.00%	100%	—	200.00
2nd	Eddie Ota	—	—	100%	100.0
3rd	Paul Romanowski	44.57%	0	5.15%	49.72
4th	Carlos Serret	9.60%	—	37.84%	47.44
5th	Mitch Walker	25.91%	0	—	25.91
6th	Fil Labastata	9.46%	—	12.68%	22.14
7th	Erez Abayov	18.41%	—	—	18.41
8th	Thom Fogerty	18.38%	—	—	18.38
9th	Marcos Pinho	10.15%	—	—	10.15
10th	Cisco Serret	7.74%	—	—	7.74
11th	Dustin Ellis	6.42%	—	—	6.42

Place	Diver	Fish (est.)	Weight	Feb
1st	Eddie Ota	1	49.2	100.00%
2nd	Carlos Serret	2	17	38.84%
3rd	Fil Labastida	3	3.4	12.68%
4th	Paul Romanowski	1	1.6	5.15%

Competitive Results:

The March meet was held at Palos Verdes where Eddie Jumped back into the chase. We can't count him out yet! Eddie's "little" white sea bass (49.2 lbs) barely allowed him to top the competition and gave him his second Al Schuck point. Right now it's between Richard and Eddie.

Al Schuck Memorial Trophy

Diver	Points
Richard Balta	3
Eddie Ota	2