



FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER

FREEDIVING SPEARFISHING COMPETITION

March 2000

The World's Best Diving Club Since 1957

Fathomiers Club Meetings

March 13th (2nd Monday of the month) at 7:30 pm will be the next meeting at Round Table Pizza in Torrance.

Fathomier Club Dives – *Open to all*

March 12 - Palos Verdes (RB Breakwall to Cabrillo Beach)
Weigh in is at 1:30pm at Malaga Cove School. PCH to PV Blvd / PV Drive West. Right at Via Corta, right on Via Arroyo. Parking lot is on the right.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The following dive dates were determined at the February 7, 2000 Board Meeting:

April 16	Club dive
May 7	Club dive
June 4	Club dive
July 16	Club dive
Aug 26	Scramble Meet
Sept 10	Club dive
Oct	Charlie Sturgill (date TBD)
Nov 5	Club dive
Dec 3	Club dive
Dec 10	Larry Staat Pole Spear Meet

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I have always asked myself, why there are people, who live for spearfishing, a total dependence, a visceral need. I believe, that in our veins, still runs our ancestors blood, who needed to get his subsistence with his own hands. We are like them and all the other predators. Besides, in nature we love our prey and its surroundings, because they give us life! This is what fictitious ecologists dont want to understand.

.....Alessandro Picasso 1998

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Plan Now!

June 10	Blue Water Meet
July 8	Omer Nielsen
August 19	Bill Kroll Meet
August 19	GLACD at Trancas
August 26	Scramble 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.

MIA FIRST AID KIT

The club's first aid kit is missing in action. It was last thought to be assuming the appearance of a wooden box with a Fathomier's logo on it.

A former club recorder might know the kit's whereabouts since it is typically handed down by this officer.

Please check your garage, trunk, backyard, under the bed, in your couch, etc...

STILL MISSING

Highly Migratory Species Ruling A Call to Arms !!!

If I understand things right here, having only just joined the freedive list less than a week ago, spearfishers are to be excluded from taking pelagic species in the Atlantic Ocean???

Highly indiscriminate methods of capture by commercial interests will be allowed i.e. drift netting, and yet spearfishers are to be excluded from taking a couple (if they are so lucky as to have the skill, ability, equipment, and money to pursue) of these fast growing, pelagic species! Recent reports circulated to commercial fishers in Australia suggest that Mahi Mahi grow to 20kgs (45lbs) in just 9 months!!! YFTuna can grow much faster!!!

This has to be the greatest travesty of injustice that recreational fishes of the oceans of the world will ever endure! Let alone the general public, as after spearfishers are excluded, they will be next!

This an outrage that should not be tolerated!!!

I suggest that all who have concerns like me at this blatant violation of our rights as humans on this earth, to feed our families from the oceans resources before ANY commercial interests has preference, to contact Carol Rose and send her your support in any way, shape, or form.

Is this the death knell for the Azores Bluewater tournament? Will the Pacific Ocean be next on the hit list of commercial interests???

Where does the future of true bluewater hunters/gatherers lie? Supermarket supplied canned Tuna from these leaches of society?

Even England's King John in 1066 when signing Magna Carta recognized that the public has the right and priority to feed themselves from the oceans of the world before any commercial interests had the right to plunder it.

Are we allowing that right to be eroded to the point of no return?

Are we giving up that right totally?

It seems so but hopefully not without the greatest of struggles. Greater than any battle for the fish in question in a personal struggle to capture one in a lifetime.

Don't lay down on this one!!!

Or bury your heads in the pillows!!!

It won't go away doing that.

Get off your butts now and seek (dare I say) legal advice, and if need be representation on this matter.

All the money raised for a Millenium Party will be only to celebrate the end of our sport - of Bluewater Hunting - otherwise.

Surely someone in our ranks has the skill, courage, overturn this travesty of pending injustice!

Keep us all posted please on the progress. Sorry for the strong tones but my blood boils at this thought happening.

Dave Birch - Founder of the Australian Blue Water Classic

Contacts: Carol Rose, President USOA

Croseusoa@aol.com

Peggy Bowen, N.J. Council of Diving Clubs

Pegdiver@surfnet.net

Secretary's Report

There is no report this month as there was no February club meeting held. A recap of the Fathomiers banquet will be featured in next month's newsletter

REVISIONS

APPLICATION FOR RECORD / CLUB DIVES AND POINTS

ANOTHER COPY HAS BEEN ATTACHED WITH THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS:

1. ITEM C. OF THE POINTS SYSTEM RE: SHEEPSHEAD
2. DORADO AND WHITEFISH NOW QUALIFY FOR A MEDALLION

Territorialism, Secrecy and Ethics

For those of you who do not follow the Freedive List there has been considerable controversy lately over how much information to share over the internet with respect to when and where fish are being taken. I have attached the following excerpt from a post by Stathis which I think most would agree seems to sum this topic up very well.

"I have followed the controversy over the last few days with a lot of interest. There are basically two issues here:

The first issue is about revealing the "sweet spot" where the fish are. This is a big mistake for a variety of reasons: Being able to find the sweet spots is what separates the good hunters from the average ones. This is true for both reef fish and pelagics. Let others work for their fish. In addition, there is a high probability that the spot that you discovered and deeply respect, will be annihilated by others, amateurs and even professionals who do not have your ethical standards. So if you do find such a sweet spot keep it to yourself. It is a sign of respect for the ocean. Discovering "sweet spots " is part of the hunt.

The second issue is about posting dive reports to the list. There weresome early FDL members from SoCal. who used to post some exciting dive reports. Somehow these members are not posting anything on the list anymore. In recent years the dive reports from So. Cal. have dropped substantially. It is as if there is some code of silence... You don't have to give away the secret spots. Just don't be specific. You can just say "we dove Catalina island and landed a white..". There's nothing wrong with telling the fish-story. Bringing back the story to the tribe is also part of the hunt.

Stathis Kostopoulos
San Gabriel, California

Editors Note:
Freedivelist posts have at least quadrupled since I first took a peek in 1997

If anyone else has views on this issue I would be happy to print them in the newsletter!



CLUB DUES

You know who you are.

Members – \$30

Associates – \$20

Payable to: The Fathomiers
c/o Eddie Ota
4118 W. 159th Street
Lawndale, CA 90260

If you haven't submitted your club dues please do so promptly or your name will be enscribed in vain on the cover of the next newsletter!*

*Just kidding – but get your dues in quick, this beautiful newsletter costs a fortune to mass produce and I would hate to take you off the mailing list.

ROSTER UPDATES

I have attached the current Fathomiers roster to this months newsletter. If there are any revisions that need to be made please contact the editors. Another roster with revised information will be circulated again in a few months.

EQUIPMENT CORNER

A few simple hints, tricks, materials and gadgets that make diving easier:

- Have an elastic lanyard on your knife that fits snugly around your wrist. This way you have both hands to fight the fish and don't have to worry about dropping your knife. (Thanks Nelson Dooley)
- A brass clip on your weight belt can serve two purposes. Most smaller fish can be clipped through the lower jaw, particularly calico and sand bass. The clip can also be attached to a float line if you need to get to the surface quickly.
- Heat shrink wrap for float lines, bands, and cable can be found at Fry's Electronics - Cheap.
- Fisherman's Supplies across from Alondra park in Torrance has some great gear including thin floats for about a buck each. (Thanks Steve Sanford)
- And of course always keep a mixture of soapy water (preferably warm and scent free) handy for getting that second skin on and off.

The Constrictor Knot is useful for tying around powerbands to hold wishbone knot inside. Also useful for making shock cords and quick-release plugs. This knot should be pulled very tight by grasping each tag end with a pair of vice-grips then pulling as hard as you can. Tag ends may be trimmed and burned with a match or torch to prevent unraveling.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Age, lengths, and weights of some of the most commonly caught sport fish species.

White seabass Max. size: 60"/84 lbs			Kelp bass Max. size: 28"/15 lbs		California Barracuda Max. size: 48"/18 lbs	
AGE	Size limit: 28 inches		Size limit: 12 inches		Size limit: 28 inches	
years	length	weight	length	weight	length	weight
1	9"	4 oz	3½"	¾ oz	14"	6 oz
2	14"	1 lb	5½"	7/8 oz	20"	1 lb, 6 oz
3	20"	2 lb, 12 oz	7"	2 oz	24"	1 lb, 14 oz
4	24"	4 lb, 11 oz	9"	5 oz	28"	2 lb, 15 oz
5	28"	7 lb, 6 oz	10½"	8½ oz	31"	4 lb
6	32"	10 lb, 14 oz	12"	13 oz	33"	4 lb, 12 oz
7	35"	14 lb	13"	1 lb, 2 oz	34"	5 lb, 9 oz
8	38"	17 lb, 15 oz	14½"	1 lb, 7 oz	36"	6 lb, 2 oz
9	40"	20 lb, 13 oz	15½"	1 lb, 14 oz	37"	6 lb, 11 oz
10	42"	24 lb	16"	2 lb, 3 oz	38"	7 lb, 4 oz

Barred surfperch Max. size: 17"/4½ lbs			Pacific bonito Max. size: 40"/25 lbs		California halibut Max. size: 60"/72 lbs	
AGE	No size limit		Size limit: 24 inches		Size limit: 22 inches	
years	length	weight	length	weight	length	weight
1	5"	1 oz	19"	2 lb, 4 oz	9"	6 oz
2	8"	5 oz	25½ "	6 lb, 6 oz	13"	10 oz
3	10"	10 oz	29"	9 lb, 9 oz	17"	2 lb, 10 oz
4	11½ "	1 lb	30½ "	11 lb, 6 oz	21"	4 lb, 11 oz
5	13"	1 lb, 8 oz	31½ "	12 lb, 10 oz	24"	7 lb, 15 oz
6	13½ "	1 lb, 11oz	31¾ "	13 lb	26"	9 lb, 8 oz
7	14½ "	2 lb	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	28"	13 lb
8	15"	2 lb, 4 oz	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	31"	18 lb, 13 oz
9	15½ "	2 lb, 8 oz	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	34"	22 lb, 11 oz
10	16"	2 lb, 10 oz	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	37"	31 lb, 1 oz

FATHOMIERS 2000 "IN CALIFORNIA" RECORDS

SPECIES	LBS	OZ	DIVER	LOCATION
White Seabass	50	8	Jim Matsukas	Palos Verdes
California Sheepshead	19	4	Eddie Ota	Reef Point
Barracuda	6	2	Joe Kalohi	Catalina
Turn in those records: If you have a record, in California or outside California, notify Fil Labastida.				

FATHOMIERS 2000 "OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA" RECORDS

WHO'S NEXT

CLASSIFIED ADS

- Lighthall Paddleboard for Sale
19 1/2 feet long with a built in seat - \$450
Contact Don Evers at (714) 838-1534
- 21' Aluminum Valco with trailer
175 Mercury - Freshly tuned with low hours
Center console with custom t-top and cabinets. Bait tank.
Newly wired. New batteries. Speargun racks.
Perfect dive / fishing boat. Must see - \$6000
Call Scott Golden (310) 539-8879

HEALTH AND SAFETY

I thought I'd share the insights I learned about how to prevent skin irritations from multi-day diving. This is the collective wisdom that was shared with me. Special thanks to Gene Higa for all your suggestions.

1. Try not to pee in your suit. Consider putting in a trap door, zipper. Another idea is to use a catheter/condom system to keep your suit pee-less.
2. Put "Bentadine" or any surgical scrub on your skin before you put on your wetsuit to prevent saddle soars and itching skin. Some divers also use A and D ointment or Nivea cream under their suits to reduce chaffing and irritations. Many divers use Vaseline behind their knees to reduce chaffing too. Also, the best stuff to put behind the knees I am told is the grease farmers put on the cow's udders aka udder balm available at Walmart.
3. Wash suit with diluted vinegar to kill bacteria. Another idea is to spray the suit down with rubbing alcohol inside out everyday after washing or to use rinse suit in a mild disinfectant ("Dettol") and turn it inside out to let the inside dry after most dives.
4. Bring two suits for multi-day diving so one will dry out and can be rotated to inhibit bacteria growth
5. Use swimmers ear or combo 50/50 vinegar/alcohol solution after each dive to prevent ear infections. During the day between dives take your hood off to let your ears dry.
6. Peel your suit off as soon you're done diving and rinse off immediately. It is very important to clean you skin as quickly as you can after diving. Consider washing your body with a strong soap which will kill any bacteria like "hibiclens". - Dave Edlund Los Gatos, CA

Maps Needed!

There are many different dive spots which can be nominated for a club dive, but many of the members will be unfamiliar with the location and or the layout of the area (reefs structure etc.) As a service to the other members, it is requested that anyone that nominates a spot for a monthly dive, provide a rough map of the reefs and structure as well as brief instructions on getting to the spot. It is understood that you may have your "secret holes" at a particular location and nobody expects you to give those away!

If you think some of these measures seem extreme, ask Marcos Pinho about his flesh eating bacteria!

March Fathomiers Competitive Results

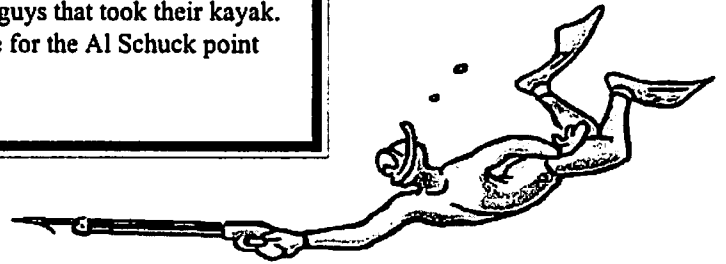
	Diver	Weight	Percent
1st	Richard Balta	36.68	100.00
2nd	Paul Romanowski	35.00	95.42
3rd	Fil Labastida	26.96	73.50
4th	Erez Abayov	25.50	69.52

Al Schuck Memorial Trophy

Diver	Points
Bill Ernst	1
Fil Labastida	2
Scott de Firmian	1
Carlos Serret	1
Eddie Ota	2
Skip Hellen	1
Paul Romanowski	1

* Denotes non-member

Big surf and what looks like to be bad viz, discouraged some divers from diving. Those that made it out found some pockets of good visibility and nice fish specially the guys that took their kayak. Richard won again for the 2nd month in a row while Paul got in the race for the Al Schuck point with his 7lbs 64oz Sheephead



Steve Redding Trophy:

The Steve Redding Trophy is a lifetime trophy awarded to honor the memory of Steve Redding. The fish chosen are all gamefish which can be caught off the beach. It was thought that the eligible fish should be readily accessible off the beach or by kayak because Steve was primarily a beach diver. The qualifying fish are as follows:

Each diver must get, while an active member or tentative, one each of the following: Yellowtail (at least 35 lbs.), White Seabass (at least 50lbs.), and either a Calico Bass (at least 10lbs.) or Halibut (at least 25lbs.)

Diver	White Seabass	Yellowtail	Halibut	Calico Bass
Todd Bergenbring	76lbs 9.6oz			
Scott deFirmian	61lbs 12oz	39 lbs 3oz		
Al Schnepershoff	56lbs 6oz			
Nelson Dooley	53lbs 4oz			
Skip Hellen	52lbs 6oz	38 lbs 12 oz		
Richard Balta	50lbs 6oz			
Paul Romanowski	50lbs			
Jim Matsukas	50 lbs 8oz			

2000 Competitive Standings

Diver	Jan.	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Current Score
Richard Balta	100.00	100.00											200.00
Eddie Ota	96.38	43.57											139.95
Fil Labastida	60.21	73.50											133.71
Paul Romanowski	22.46	95.42											117.88
Thom Fogarty	37.38	50.05											87.43
Erez Abayov		69.52											69.52
Stathis Kostopoulos	32.40												32.40
Bob Dawson		22.14											22.14
Tim Gilroy*		11.23											11.23

* Denotes non-member / tentative

