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It's been 30 years, give or take a month or two since the first e-mail made its way from one computer to another. In 1996 estimates are that 300 million pieces of e-mail were sent on an average day and 100 million people worldwide were using the medium. So have you subscribed to the sfreefdivers site yet?

I know, you're going to tell me it's too hard to sign up, you are already flooded with e-mails, you have philosophical issues with electronic medium (see Ludites in the dictionary).. To calm your fears, it's easy, you don't have to be overwhelmed with unwanted e-mail and it's the 21st century.

To sign on, visit www.sfreefdivers.org and click on Subscribe to San Francisco Reef Divers Listserver at Yahoo! Groups. It's easy, quick and gives you a way to find that dive buddy you're looking for at the last minute, arrange a trip on short notice, or find out who sent diving yesterday and what where the conditions like. Take the plunge, and beam up!

Renew for 2002!

Get a jump-start on the new year and renew your SFRD membership now. Don't miss out on our thrilling articles and guest speakers, dive community information and exciting diving events! Please see the Membership Form (on page 9) for details.

Contact Kharmen Roman, if you have any further questions.

Kharmen Roman
kharmen@melibe.com
(415) 921-4655

DECO STOP



REEF DIVER HOLIDAY PARTY !!!

Presidio Alliance Building - Room "B"
563 Ruger Street

The Presidio - San Francisco

Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m.

There are no food assignments this year. Bring your family, friends and finger food to share in the festivities. We'll throw caution to the wind and hope we don't end up with a table full of fruitcakes. This year there will be no White Elephant Gift Exchange. The enthusiasm for watching fellow Reef Divers try to come home with something better than they brought has been somewhat lacking the past few years. Replacing the exchange will be some *very interesting and unusual party games*, a fantastic raffle, and music for dancing so be prepared for some fun!!! Questions? Comments? Want to help with the party? Just let me know.

Pamela Radkey

510.527.5282

pradkey@earthlink.net

This year's raffle is to help with Ed Cooper's battle with Cancer.

Editor's note



Hi ALL...

This past year has been a joy serving you. And it is also my pleasure to pass the pen to our own Gerda Hurter, who will be your editor for 2002. I'm sure Gerda will do a great job in the upcoming issues.

Now, if I could take this time to thank everyone for their support this past year, with special thanks to Kathy Klein for her stash of pictures, Kharmen Roman for the months she was guests editor and those of you that have submitted articles.

I'd also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Safe and Happy Diving;-)

2001 SFRD OFFICERS

President	Pierre Hurter	(415) 285-6293 p.hurter@worldnett.att.com
Vice President	Robert Miché	(415) 661-5540 rmiche@mindspring.com
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Cen Cal Representative	Robert Foster	(510) 663-8820 frosterj@self-serv.net
Membership Chairperson	Kharmen Roman	(415) 921-4655 kharmen@melibe.com



Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:
Bill Donnelly
PO Box 151223
San Rafael, CA 94915

Reefers Rap

December 18	<i>General Meeting and Holiday Party</i>
January 1, 2002	<i>New Year's Dive</i> Point Lobos
January 13, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
January 16, 2002	<i>General Meeting</i> 1 st Meeting for the year and New Location the BOAT HOUSE
February 16, 2002	<i>President's Day Dive</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293
February 23, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
March 23, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
April 2002	<i>Abalone Opener</i> TBD
April 14, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
May 25, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
June 22, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
July 27, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
August 2002	<i>Channel Islands Trip</i> TBD
September 22, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
October 14, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784
November 24, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784

Dear Friends,

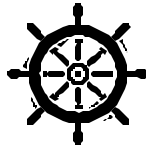
A member of our diving community is in need of our help. Many of us know of Captain Ed Cooper through his contributions to the diving community. Captain Ed has had a re-occurrence of cancer, and must now devote 100% of his time recovering his health. He is no longer able to work on the Beach Hopper II, and is no longer covered by health insurance. With the help of many support divers, Ed defeated his last bout with cancer with intensive hyperbaric oxygen treatments both in water and in medical chambers. We plan to assist his treatments by hiring a driver to transport him on the exhausting commute to the medical chamber. Money is also needed for additional medical care, rent, and daily needs. Captain Ed could really use the assistance and support of the diving community. Please send a personal check or money order made in his name to:

Ed Cooper
PO Box 148
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

For many years, Captain Ed has been an extremely effective and passionate spokes person for our diving community. He served as the Diver Representative on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Counsel (SAC). He is presently the Alternate Diver Representative on the SAC. He also donated his time, expertise, and personal financial resources to fight on behalf of divers for divers' access rights, improvements to dive sites, and shore facilities. Captain Ed led the fight to maintain diver access to MacAbee Beach, and for the improvements at MacAbee, including the shower. Captain Ed fought to assure diver access at Pebble Beach, and that the Lodge improvements accommodated diver access to the shore and the bathrooms. Not only a tireless advocate for the dive community at large, Ed has supported many of us individually. Not long ago, a spear diver in Monterey was accidentally speared by his buddy with resulting paralysis. Ed personally organized and carried out a fund-raiser to aid in offsetting some of the diver's medical bills. Most important for divers of future generations, Captain Ed has been a tireless champion for the ocean and diving environment. As a co-founder of Friends of The Edward F. Ricketts

(Cont. to page 8/col. 3)

2002 at the Boathouse Sports Club Grill !!! 1 Harding Road - San Francisco



Starting in January of 2002, we will be meeting at the Boathouse Sports Club Grill at Lake Merced. Meetings will be held the third **WEDNESDAY** of the month. Meetings will start at 07:00 for some socializing, followed at 7:30 with club news, entertainment and more. Our 2002 schedule is as follows:

January 16
February 20
March 20

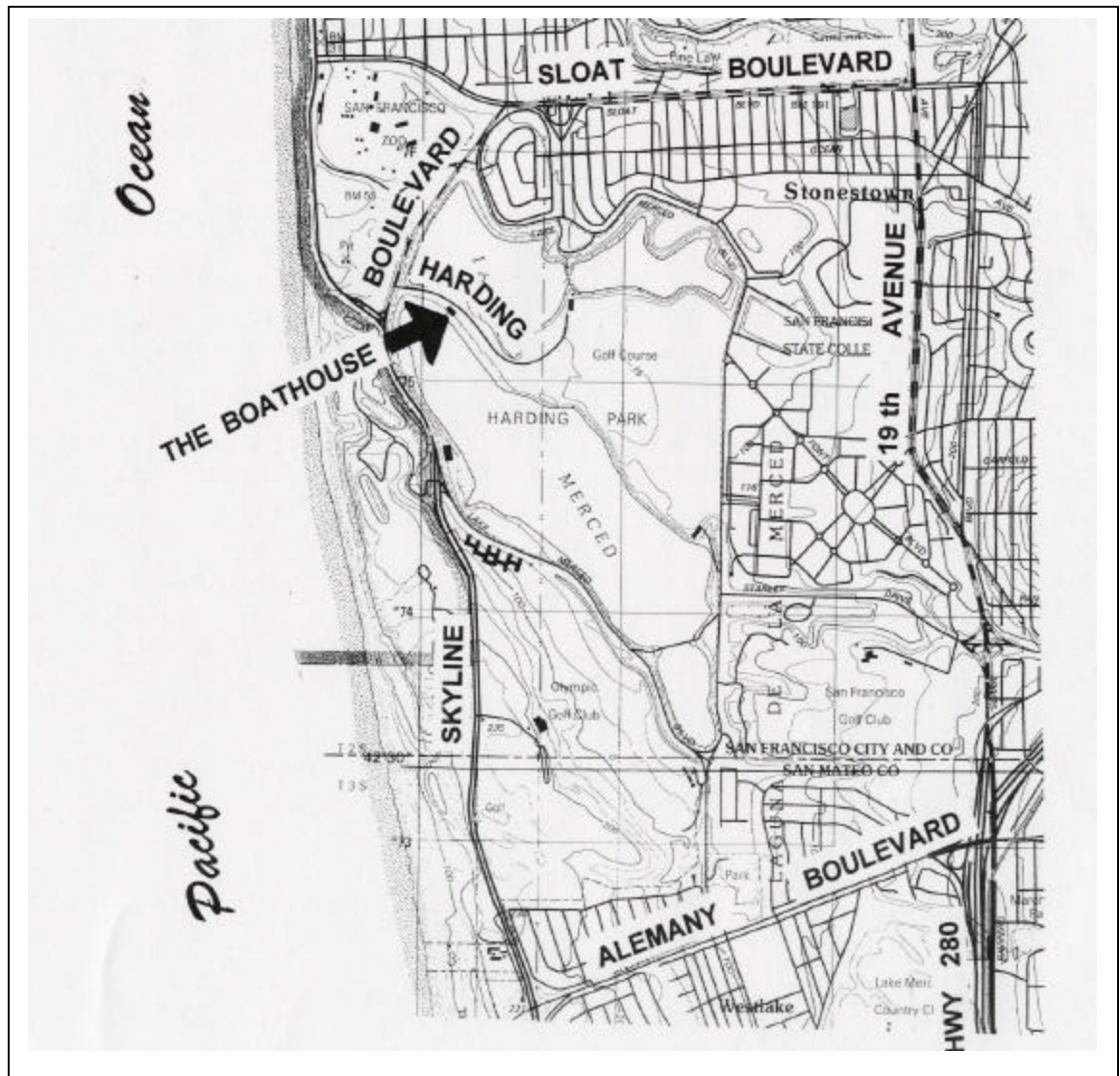
April 17
May 15
June 19

July 17
August 21
September 18

October 16
November 20
December 18

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President's Corner



November has come and gone with a flurry of rain showers, meteor showers, elections and left over turkey. The Annual Sea Ranch retreat was a terrific place to watch the Leonid meteor shower. There aren't any streetlights or many other sources of "light pollution", just the inky night sky strewn with innumerable stars. The turnout for this year's event was good; I counted 15 members and their family's spread out in two houses. A few of us played hooky and stayed on through Monday. Tim Howe almost got his ten-inch abalone, so close, yet still so far. Bill Galarneau brought along several examples of his wine, for me that's reason enough to come to Sea Ranch. Mike Staninec brought his family and introduced us to the delicacies of parts of the abalone that most of us had previously not thought of tasting. Saturday's potluck was delicious with enough abalone for all. Thanks to Kurt and Arlene for coordinating, I've already cleared my calendar for next year.

Fifteen seems to be my lucky number this month, which's how many members showed up on election night. There were no major upsets, but there are some changes for 2002. Noreen will be taking a sabbatical as newsletter editor; Gerda will be taking over the blue pencil in her stead. Bill Galarneau will be taking over from Robert Foster as our Cencal representative. That will teach Bill not to show up for election night. Aside from the elections, Ron Gault gave a presentation on the plight of the leatherback turtle. This is an animal that can travel over 7,000 miles each year in the course of its migrations, they can dive to a depth of 1000 meters and they feed solely on jellyfish. Some of them come to Monterey Bay and off of the Farallon Islands to feed. So have you ever seen one? Do you want to know why? If you're interested in what's endangering the turtles (we are) visit www.seaturtles.org.

On to a cheerier topic, Kharmen had mentioned that Norbert Wu's "Under Arctic Ice" photo exhibition would be showing at the California Academy of Arts and Sciences beginning on Thanksgiving Day. So on Sunday, following the turkey feast, and after "Running to the Far Side" Gerda and I took advantage of the free admission for runners to see the exhibit. There is a total of 40 large format images taken over the course of three seasons at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. The water temperature was a bracing 28.6 degrees; well below freezing in anyone's book, at least for freshwater. If you want more information visit www.calacademy.orh/exhibits or view the photographs at www.pgmuseum.org/icetitle.htm. On a club note, we ran into Ursula while running and later at the museum. You meet Reefers in all of the best places.

While on the topic of Reefdivers, does anyone have copies of old newsletters? I'd like to put together a history of the club. Those of you have been around for a while, pitch in and tell us your tales. To jog your memories a bit, Ursula pegs the first meeting as August 1970. So we should probably change the masthead on our website from "over 27 years" to "over 30 years, or since 1970".

Odds and ends for the month of November. Kharmen found a job in San Francisco, narrowly averting a move to Austin, Texas. I like to think that my descriptions of cowboy boots (cockroach killers) made of exotic and endangered species and rifle racks for Volvos is what spurred her to find a job locally. Meanwhile in the waters off Puerto Galera on the island of Mindora in the Philippines, John Bennett reached a depth of 308 meters / 1010 feet on open circuit scuba. Apparently his previous record of 254 meters / 833 feet was just enough to wet his appetite. For the diver's in the club, chew on that thought awhile. The entire dive took 9 ½ hours, from start to finish, not much bottom time I'm afraid. For more information, Diver Magazine plans to publish an article in its January edition.

The Reefdiver's holiday extravaganza is just around the corner. Pamela Radkey is organizing this year's event. There will be food, games and a raffle. If you haven't heard, vandals destroyed the two rescue boats usually kept at Point Lobos. This year's raffle proceeds will go towards helping to replace the boats and rescue equipment. So bring your family, friends, and favorite foods and celebrate the holidays.

While I'm on the topic of Point Lobos, it looks as if we have a fair number of the available spaces for New Year's Day. The slots available, 15 in all, the magic number again, filled up by noon on November 1st. For those of you who did not get a reservation, Curt Degler has suggested a parallel dive, perhaps at Monastery. Aside from the New Years, we also have a boat dive scheduled on the Cypress Sea, on January 19th. February, we have the President's Day dive. The holiday is on Monday, but

(Cont. to page 8/Col.2)

Remembering Wynn Matsumura

I got to know Wynn shortly after he joined the San Francisco Reef divers. He was interested in diving for abalone and he wanted to join me on some dives, because he heard that I dove for abs fairly often. I was a bit surprised to see a guy in his mid-fifties just getting into the sport, but after one dive I realized that Wynn had amazing swimming endurance and stamina. He suggested a dive at Cardiac Hill, just south of Fort Ross. It really was a long haul back up with all the gear and abs, but he just kept on trucking like a real trooper.

Another dive we did together was at Gerstle Cove. It was one of those rare, very calm days. We swam out from just outside the preserve and went all the way out to the point that is normally unthinkable for diving. That day we were able to dive all around it and swim in between the rocks, back toward the main cove. I think this was Wynn's second or third ab dive and he was a bit shy about going down. On the way back, after we had been in for some 1 ½ hr., I encouraged him to try in shallower water, around 20'. He didn't find anything on a couple of tries, so I went down and dropped my gun into a crack with several abs. Wynn dove down, following my line, and came up with two abs! We loaded up on urchins, too, which Wynn loved to eat sushi style. We were in the water for over 2 hours that day, and Wynn hardly seemed tired. Later, I learned that he had been a competitive swimmer in his student days.

My last dive with Wynn was the most memorable. He called me up around the end of last year and said he heard about the Cencal High Five tournament, and wanted to "see what this spearfishing is all about" I said sure, come on along! We drove down to Carmel on the first Sunday in January for the tournament. Each diver could enter up to five fish, but all had to be of different species. We had five hours to go out, dive, and come back. Carmel River beach was rough, so Wynn and I took my double kayak out of Stillwater Cove. I took the kayak through the surf myself with a push from a couple of friends on the beach and Wynn was to join me from the end of the pier. He stood at the end of the pier 20' above the water and was ready to jump. I had to point out the ladder to him and he came down this more civilized way. We paddled out a couple of hundred yards and parked in about 15' of water behind some rocks. I had a two-band 24" AB Biller and I gave Wynn my pole spear, which I had used in my first couple of years of spearfishing. Wynn swam around on his own for about two hours, while I collected four or five fish, a couple even meeting the 14" minimum requirement. We got together briefly and I realized that I hadn't given Wynn any instruction. He also didn't seem to think he could get anything with a pole spear. I traded guns with him and showed him how to go down and look into cracks where the brown rockfish were hiding. He still didn't seem to trust the pole spear, so I loaded the Biller and handed it to Wynn. He swam off with it and it wasn't five minutes before I heard him screaming at the surface: "Mike, Mike, come over here, I got a big one!" I swam over and my chin would have dropped if it wasn't for the tight hood. Wynn had a 29" ling on the spear and obviously didn't know what to do with it. I reached out for the fish and just at that moment, the ling slipped off and headed for the bottom with me in hot pursuit. He settled on the bottom and I nailed him right behind the head with my pole spear. I brought him up and put him on the stringer. We were just about out of time, so we headed back for the weigh-in. I congratulated Wynn and told him he may have one of the biggest fish in the tournament, but he insisted that I count it as one of mine. I couldn't convince him after arguing for a while, so I turned to Brian Ishida, an experienced contestant, and he said that whoever landed the fish should turn it in. So, thanks to Wynn, I not only got on the tournament board for the first time, but actually had a decent score and one of the bigger fish. I even beat Carl Krupansky, who has more contests and wins under his belt than I have dives.

I am still shaking my head about how I dove for 10 years and never shot a good size ling or anything else good size for that matter, and Wynn, with the first shot ever fired, gets a 29" ling! In his usual generous manner, he gave me all the credit for what was obviously a team effort.

Wynn was tank diving by himself on August 27th in Timber cove, looking for urchins. His companion Sharon was waiting on shore. When Wynn didn't come out for four hours, she went for help. The officers from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department looked for him in vain with binoculars, then a helicopter and a Coast Guard boat. He floated up the next day, his equipment still on. Sharon, who is not a diver, said his tank was on "reserve" so I am not sure how much air was left. The autopsy results, which finally became available at the end of October, had a very terse note about the cause of death: drowning. No other information. I guess we will never know what went wrong that day. The water was calm, and the area is fairly shallow, maybe 20'. The kelp was thick this year, which could have been a factor. I only know that Wynn was a strong swimmer with plenty of stamina. I can't blame him for diving alone; I've done it with tanks in worse conditions once or twice, and many times freediving. All I can say is rest in peace, dear friend. I will remember you for the great times we had, for your generosity, adventurous spirit and amazing energy.

Mike Staninec

Volunteers needed in the Philippines

Submitted by Kathy Kennedy

The Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. (or Sulu Fund) is a non-government organization based in Cebu City, Philippines

(<http://www.sulufund.org>). It was founded in 1998 to support marine conservation in the Philippines. The name was taken from the Philippines' southern Sulu Sea known for its extremely high marine biodiversity unequalled in the world. The name thus symbolizes a benchmark of marine biodiversity sought in other parts of the Philippines and globally.

The Sulu Fund was formed with the intention to address some critical marine conservation needs of the country. The primary goal is to efficiently channel financial and technical support to practical, implementable and effective coastal and marine conservation projects in selected coastal locations. We have projects in Mabini, Batangas, Central Visayas, Palawan and Sulu Sea.

The Sulu Fund is currently recruiting volunteers for the following project:

Saving Philippine Reefs

Coral Reef Monitoring Expedition
Central Visayas, Philippines
March 23

A Joint Project of: The Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. The Coastal Resource Management Project and Expedition Volunteers

THE EXPEDITION PURPOSE

This reef monitoring expedition will determine the status of coral reef health within selected marine in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines. The

protected areas (MPAs) bordering the islands of Cebu, Negros Oriental, Apo and Siquijor in the Central Visayas, Philippines. It will update baseline data in the research sites collected in the early 1980s and 1990s. The expedition results will support the current management of the MPAs and indicate effectiveness of protection from illegal fishing and other improper activities in the areas. The trip will be educational and fun while producing critical information for management of the MPA study sites.

DIVING AND SNORKELING VOLUNTEERS

The expedition volunteers will be experienced scuba divers or snorkelers. Most will have participated in one of the Saving Philippine Reefs Earthwatch Expeditions. The volunteers will make reef surveys using prescribed methods during morning and afternoon dives and snorkels. Each volunteer will make two survey dives per day for the nine-day duration of the trip. The first day will be dedicated to training and practice surveys to assist divers to learn and improve their survey skills. Volunteers will be able to make optional recreational dives after survey dives are completed.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any experienced diver or snorkeler is welcome to join. The only requirement is that volunteers come prepared to assist to collect the required data on the two research dives and snorkels each day and to fill in information forms after the dives. Divers are also welcome to do photography as time and energy permit. The expedition can accept 12 persons only.

LOCATION AND DATES

The expedition will begin and end

schedule is projected to be:

Saturday March 23: Arrive in Dumaguete City from Manila in the morning, briefing

Sunday March 24: Training and practice dives in front of beach resort

Monday March 25: Survey MPA reef in Sibulan, north of Dumaguete

Tuesday March 26: Survey reef of Sumilon Island, southern Cebu Island

Wednesday March 27: Transfer to Apo Island, survey reef of Apo Island

Thursday March 28: Survey MPA reef of Dauin or Bacong

Friday March 29: Transfer to Siquijor Island, survey reef of MPA in San Juan

Saturday March 30: Survey reef of MPA in Siquijor Island

Sunday March 31: Transfer to Dumaguete, survey MPA reef in Negros

Monday April 1: Depart Dumaguete for Manila in morning

EXPEDITION COST AND ARRANGEMENTS

The expedition will cover the period from meeting time on the morning of March 23 in Dumaguete to departure from Dumaguete in the morning of April 1, 2002. Included in the fee US\$1900 per person are diving, food and lodging for the 10-day and 9-nights. Not included in the fee are costs for: equipment rental (except for weights and tanks), extra drinks and food, souvenirs and other miscellaneous items. Volunteer participants will be responsible for travel costs and arrangements from their point of origin to Dumaguete, Philippines via Manila. Reservations for connecting flights from Manila to Dumaguete can be arranged through travel agents and

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(Cont. from page 7/col. 3)

assisted by the Sulu Fund if necessary.

Those interested should contact the Sulu Fund at the contact information below and indicate their desire to join the trip with a \$500 deposit on a first come first serve basis until the trip is filled. The balance payment of \$1400 will be due on or before February 1, 2002. Paying the total amount of US1900 at any time is also acceptable. Please mail check payable only to Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation. (Please indicate at the check for deposit only to the account of Sulu Fund for safety reason). The address is: No. 2 Topaz Street, Saint Michael Village, Banilad, Cebu City, attention: Alan/or Vangie White.

CONTACTS AND PERSONS IN CHARGE

Organization: Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc.
No. 2 Topaz Street, St. Michael Village, Banilad, Cebu City, Philippines
Phones: 6332-231-1521 or 6332-232-1822; Fax 6332-232-1825
Email: sulufund@mozcom.com or awhite@mozcom.com

Principal investigator: Dr. Alan White
Asst. Principal Investigator: Dr. Patrick Christie
Coordinators: Ms. Evangeline White and Ms. Anna Meneses
Scientific dive master: Mr. Jonathaniel Apurado
Other assistants and guides: To be determined

Questions about CORAL's Volunteer Network? Please contact us at:

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)
2014 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Tel:(510) 848-0110
Fax:(510) 848-3720
Email:
volunteernetwork@coral.org
Toll-free number:1-888-CORAL REEF

<http://www.coral.org/>

"Working together to keep coral reefs alive."

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(Cont. from page 5)

Saturday, February 16 seems a better bet for most people. I haven't figured out the details yet, but there is still time.

So, once again, we are the verge of a new year, well-intended resolutions will abound. New members as well as old, there is one resolution that I want to keep, I want to go diving, paddling, in general I want to get wet. January and February already have something scheduled. In April I'm looking forward to the abalone opener, In August I'm hoping for a repeat of the Channel Islands trip, November there is the Sea Ranch Bacchanal and potluck, December, the Christmas party. There are still plenty of spots to fill in between. Do you have a dive you've always wanted to do? How about diving an oilrig, or wreck alley in San Diego, free diving along the North Coast. Whatever your interests, organize a dive, if you don't, who will?



Special Thanks

Let's send out a Special Thanks to the vendors that have donated items for our festivities this coming Tuesday.

Bamboo Reef, San Francisco Marin Skin Diving, Marin Pacific Reef Scuba, Vacaville Steel's-The Original



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(Cont. from page 3)

Marine Reserve, Captain Ed has for eight years advocated for the establishment of a marine reserve. It has been a dream of Captain Ed that a reserve be recognized from the Breakwater to Lover's Point for divers to enjoy, and marine life to prosper. Let's help Ed at his time of need, like he has helped us. During these extraordinary times, and season of caring and giving, please reach deep into your pocket, and make a generous contribution to one of our most beloved and caring family members. Please, as soon as you can, send Captain Ed a generous holiday gift. Also, plans are underway for a silent auction to be held in the near future. We will keep you informed on the details as they develop. In the mean time, thank you so very much for any help you can lend to Ed at this critical time. Thank you, The Friends of Edwards F. Ricketts Marine Reserve.



The San Francisco Reef Divers is a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. The San Francisco Reef Divers general meetings are open to the public and are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Presidio Alliance Community Center, Building 563 Ruger St., in the Presidio, San Francisco (For driving directions and a map for this location, visit our club web site: <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.)

We highly encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abalone Marine Resource Council (AMRC) | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | 10 |

Show your support for all four! \$60

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (_____) _____	Work Phone: (_____) _____
Email: _____	Birthdate (year optional): ____/____/____
Diving Certification Agency: _____	Level: _____ Number: _____
SFRD Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Are you a member of Divers Alert Network (DAN)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please select the method of delivery of your monthly club newsletter (Choose one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> I will download the newsletter via the Internet from the SFRD website (default)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the newsletter mailed to my home address	

Please make checks payable to “San Francisco Reef Divers” and mail to:
Bill Donnelly, SFRD Treasurer, P.O. Box 151223, San Rafael, CA 94915



ABOUT *SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS* (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". There is a general club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm with a social half-hour before the meeting at 7:00pm. We meet at the Presidio Alliance Building, Room B, 563 Ruger Street, The Presidio, San Francisco. Ruger is the first left after entering via the Lombard Gate entrance. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.