

ILES DE CANAL
ISOLE DI SCANALATURA
KANALINSELN ()*
AUG 8TH THRU AUG 11TH

No matter how you say it, “Channel Islands” evokes memories of clear, warm(er) water, majestic golden kelp forests, underwater flora and fauna unique to southern California, and fond memories of great times. Before we know it, August will be around the corner and we’ll start anticipating the drive down to Ventura and the three days on the boat. For those of you who have been...well, no encouragement is needed.

For those who have not been on this trip before, a few explanatory words:

The club charters one half of the Peace for three days in August. We do this every year and we go to the southern Channel Islands. Half the boat equates to fourteen spots. The price per spot is \$400. This gets you a single bunk (if you are on your own), or one half of a double bunk (if you are fortunate or unfortunate enough, whichever the case may be, to have your significant other with you). If you check with the dive shops, you will find that this is significantly lower than what they are charging. The bunks are spartan, but we’re not there for the accommodations. We are there for the incredible diving, the great food and the even greater times topside. Did I mention the hot tub? The key to any live-aboard charter is the attitude of the crew and skipper/owner. Eric Bowman and his crew are the best! They always try to put us on the best spots and always try to fulfill our requests.

If you haven’t done this trip, you owe it to yourself to check it out. You will not be disappointed.

Flip to **page 4** to find out details on how to secure a spot and become part of the action.

Time to renew your
SFRD Membership



Dues are Due
Don't Delay!

*Dues are Due
Don't Delay!*

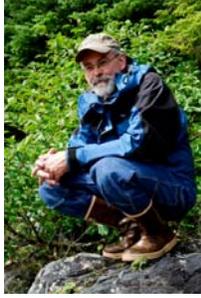
GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2010

AT SINDBADS

Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, San Francisco

**MEET at 7:00p.m. for socializing, DRINKS & FOOD
and 7:30p.m. for CLUB BUSINESS**



Der Stammtisch

By Pierre Hurter

After last month's Point Lobos dive Gerda and I took a hike while the rest of the crew went for a second plunge. It's a beautiful park that we rarely seem to explore topside; we are always bobbing in the waves, sliding down the boat ramp or underwater. We visited the Whalers Cabin where among the abalone diving paraphernalia I noticed a brochure that listed all of the films which had been shot in the Reserve or nearby, starting in 1914 with *Valley of the Moon*. Who could resist a title like the 1915 documentary, *See America First*. Some of the more recent movies include *Passion Fruit* in 1920, *Married Alive* (no comment), *The Sandpiper* with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, *The Graduate*, who can forget Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft, "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me, aren't you?" From classics to *Blind Date* with Bruce Willis and Kim Bassinger, there have been some 49 movies shot in Point Lobos or nearby locations.

The next time you tuck into an abalone steak, give a quick nod to "Pop" Ernest Doelter, the man who put the abalone on the map for folks outside of the orient. A copy of one of his menus is on display in the Whaler's shed at Point Lobos.

*Oh! Some folks boast of quail on toast,
Because they think it's tony;
But I'm content to owe my rent
And live on Abalone.*

Closer to home, file this under only in San Francisco. I'm heading home from work on Valencia Street when following two of the principals of the Smith Driving system, get the big picture and keep your eyes moving, I catch a glimpse of a young gal standing on the sidewalk with a camera. On closer inspection I see that she's taking a picture of her pal who is seated at the window counter of a restaurant facing out to the street, long coat pulled back, big smile, no clothes.

Continued on page 4

2009 SFRD OFFICERS

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Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:
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515 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Reefer's Rap 2009 – 2010

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - New Year's Day - Breakwater Dive ???</p> <p>02 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>06 - Officer's Meeting</p> <p>22 - General Meeting - Sinbad's - Pier 2 - 07:00 p.m.</p> <p>23-31 - 41st International Boat Show - Dusseldorf - www.boot.de</p> <p>30-31 - 3rd Annual Texas Dive Show - www.divechronicles.com</p>	<p>03 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>03 - 07 - SF Ocean Film Festival</p> <p>13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>17 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p> <p>19-21 - Our World Underwater - www.ourworldunderwater.com</p>	<p>03 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>05-07 - The Boston Sea Rovers - www.bostonsearovers.com</p> <p>13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>17 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p> <p>26-28 - Beneath the Sea - New Jersey - www.beneaththe sea.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>01 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal</p> <p>07 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>10 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>10-11 - Bay Area Dive Show - San Jose - www.divechronicles.com</p> <p>16-18 - Ocean Fest - Fort Lauderdale - www.oceanfest.com</p> <p>21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>05 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>08 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>15 - 16 - Scuba Show - Long Beach - www.scubashow.com</p> <p>19 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p> <p>21-23 - Dive & Travel Expo - Tacoma - www.diveandtravelexpo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>02 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>12 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>16 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <p>07 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>10 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Opener</p> <p>04 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>08-11 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784</p> <p>11 - Channel Island Extension TBD</p> <p>18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>10 - 12 Lake Tahoe - Norm Knutson</p> <p>15 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p> <p>11 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p> <p>06 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>09 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>20 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!!</p> <p>17 - 21 - The Dema Show - Las Vegas - www.demashow.com</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>11 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II (2 Dives) - Reservations : http://www.beachhopper2.com/</p> <p>15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party !!!</p>

**ILES DE CANAL -- ISOLE DI
SCANALATURA -- KANALINSELN**
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Some particulars:

1. Please send a \$100 deposit (per spot) to our esteemed and beloved Treasurer (Pierre Hurter, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114). Receipt of check by the Treasurer adds your name to the list.
2. Boat departs the dock at 10PM on Saturday, August 7th.
3. Bring all of your dive gear, including one full tank. They can refill tanks with air or 32% Nitrox.
4. Unlimited Nitrox fills will cost \$75 for the trip. If you want Nitrox, please bring your Nitrox certification card and separate check for \$75.
5. The bunks have a pillow and a blanket. Anything more (sleeping bag, extra pillow, etc.) is your responsibility.
6. Boat supplies all food, snacks, drinks (non-alcoholic). Wine, beer, etc. may be brought on board, but please remember the homily about your 1st drink and your last dive.
7. For additional information, such as directions to the boat, please check out their website, www.peaceboat.com.

For any other questions, please contact Jim Vallario at 415-566-0784 (res) or 415-819-1159 (cell)

Stammtisch from page 2

It's a wonderful way to end the workday, just another of the simple pleasures of living in Baghdad by the Bay.

The New Year seems to be settling into a grove of its own. Something's are

going well, others, well, less well. Change, the one constant, is everywhere. The other day, during one of my lunch hour wanders I noticed that the San Francisco Brewing Company, at the intersection of Columbus and Kearney, the self proclaimed, original California brewpub, is closed. The windows are papered over and the rumor has it that the folks who own Absinthe will be opening up the Comstock Bar instead. Goodbye Albatross Lager, hello ...? This is or was the last bar from the Barbary Coast era, reaching back to 1907 it's self-flushing "spittoon" and slowly rotating Pukka Wall ceiling fan carried you back to an earlier era. From Jack Dempsey working the bar at the long ago Albatross to Baby Face Nelson enjoying a brew, what's next?

I hadn't been to North Beach for awhile so I headed up Grant for some anise biscotti from the Italian French Baking Company. Walking up the hill past the "I Dream of Cake Shop" with its fantastic creations enticing you in the window, enough to make you want to get married. If you do decide to get hitched, you can go across the street to "Al's Attire" for a bespoke suit and shoes. A little further on a quick look at the antique maps in the window at Schein & Schein, they have a great dog by the way and finally the bakery.

I recall there used to be a socialist or communist book store at the far end of Grant; great selection of books on labor history, revolution, etc. Yes there is a difference, between Communism and Socialism, there are all sorts of differences, just ask Trotsky, his sin was being on the wrong side of and obscure ideological divide, his reward an ice axe in the brain. Makes you wonder what will become of the Tea Party Rebellion. I think it's where I bought my Little Red book on guerilla warfare that's on my bookshelf somewhere. It was during a long ago on a trip up the coast, many years ago. VW van, long hair in a pony tail, you can probably picture the rest. On the way out of the store, we fellow

travelers waved at the storefront across the street, convinced that the FBI or some other governmental types in suites and crew cuts must be tracking the comings and goings of all who entered.

One of the places I really miss is Figoni's Hardware, the kind of old-time hardware store that is rapidly disappearing. Dating back to 1907, the two brothers knew what you needed and would wander to one of the many drawers or climb the rolling ladder to get to the hard to reach shelves, grab what you wanted and toss it on the counter. I went in once looking for a gasket for my Espresso pot. "That's for number four mocha". He walked to a drawer in the back, pulled out the casket and with a "here you go." rang it up. I still have that pot and the gasket is still doing its job.

Does anyone remember the Old Spaghetti Factory on Green Street? Big, barn like building that started life as the Italian-American Pasta Company from 1912 to 1955. So I missed that part of its history but I remember driving through San Francisco in the early 70's and having dinner, this was before the strange franchise with the same name, this was the real deal. The place closed in 1984 and Jerry Brown, Linda Ronstadt, Pat Paulsen and the rest of the gang had to find a new place to hang out. Reminds me of the old cliché; the city was perfect the day I first arrived here, and it has gone to hell every day since. Still North Beach is a great place for a lunchtime stroll and a little window shopping.

So, no diving news this month, but next month promises new adventures in far off climes. Until then, take care and dive often.

*They that go down to the sea in ships:
and occupy their business in great
waters;
These men see the works of the Lord:
and his wonders in the deep.*

Prayer Book 1662, 107:2

Spindrift

DO YOU HAVE \$300,000 TAKING UP VALUABLE SPACE IN YOUR POCKET?



Are you feeling a little bored with the same old cruise director vacation activities? Would you like to try something just a bit different? Richard Branson of *Virgin Airlines*, knows just how you feel. To make travelers lives a little more interesting there will now be an underwater component to the *Virgin* fleet.

Guests on Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands, can take a submarine ride for about \$25,000 a week. Of course you have to be a guest on the private island and that will add another \$300,000 or so to the bill.

The submarine, named the *Nymph* was designed by Hawkes Ocean Technologies which is located right in our backyard, at Point Richmond. For more information see ... <http://www.deepflight.com/>.

Rumor has it that Ken is already thinking about cobbling together his own deep flying sub, a couple scooters borrowed from Karl, some BF'n HID lights, a couple of car batteries, some

Saran wrap and a dozens of hundred zip ties ... stay tuned.

THE PALSTIKI READIES FOR ITS TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

Right here in our own backyard, David de Rothchild along with the group, Adventure Ecology, is getting ready to set sail from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia in the coming weeks.

The crew intends to sail the 60 foot boat, which uses 12,000 plastic bottles filled with carbon dioxide to stay afloat, on a three month voyage to Australia. Along the way they expect to pass through the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a stretch of trash twice the size of Texas.

For more information on becoming a "virtual crewmember" or to track the 10,000 mile voyage, see ... <http://www.theplastiki.com/>



If you happen to be a watch nut, IWC, one of the expedition's sponsors has created a limited edition of their *Ingenieur Mission Earth* timepieces. It

features an inner case of soft iron to shield the movement from magnetic fields of up to 1,000 Gauss/80,000 A/m and it's water resistant to 120 meters. That last bit must be a great relief for the crew.

WHALE WARS HEAT UP

As with many things in life there are two sides to every story. The continuing confrontation between the Japanese whaling fleet and Sea Shepherd has resulted in another collision.



Last year, the *Ady Gil* was cut in half after a collision with the *Nisshin Maru* a Japanese security ship. The \$1.5 million dollar carbon fiber and Kevlar ship sank shortly thereafter.

Now it's the *Bob Barker's* turn. The Japanese accuse the *Bob Barker*, named after the "Price is Right" game show host who donated \$5 million for its purchase, of having rammed the Japanese Antarctic research vessel *Yushin Maru* No. 3. Sea Sheppard as you might expect, has a different version.

Japan's Fisheries Minister Hirotaka Akamatsu has announced his determination to take this year's quota of 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales. He has also warned that two security ships will be used to protect the anti-whaling fleet.



Local Australian attitudes are mixed, but there are increasing calls for action on the part of the Australian government to pursue more than diplomatic efforts, to bolster diplomacy with active Australian surveillance, of both parties.

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATION GROUPS HOLD SAVE THE SHARKS EVENTS

The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education or COARE along with Sea Stewards and WildAid announced two new shark conservation events.

With the upcoming Chinese New Year and the popularity of shark fin soup to help ensure prosperity, the groups will be holding their second "Sharks in the Park" event on Sunday, February 7th at Portsmouth Square in Chinatown,

The event will highlight the role sharks play in the eco system and feature

information on sustainability in English as well as Chinese. For more information visit :<http://coare.org/events/>



UN AGENCY FAVORS BAN ON ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA EXPORTS

The populations of Atlantic bluefin tuna have declined by more than 80 percent since the 19th century, according to the group that oversees the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The next meeting of the group will be in March in Qatar's capital city of Doha.



The proposed ban pits most northern European nations against Japan and several Mediterranean fishing nations. Turkey, Spain, Greece, Italy and Malta have thousands of jobs that depend on either fishing for or exporting the tuna.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is one of the largest and fastest of the world's fishes. Their coloring, metallic blue on top and silver-white on the bottom helps to camouflage them from above and below. Their average size is an impressive 6.5 feet (2 meters) in length and 550 pounds (250 kilograms), although much larger specimens are not uncommon. With their sleek streamlined shape, they can reach speeds of 43 miles (70 kilometers) per hour

Unlike most fish, the Atlantic bluefin tuna are warm-blooded and as comfortable in the cold waters off Newfoundland and Iceland, in the tropical waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea, where they go each year to spawn. The problem with the Atlantic bluefin is that they taste good and there's the rub



A bluefin ban would not impact the Pacific bluefin species or yellowfin, skipjack or tongol, most commonly found in cans and in your local deli sandwich.





We 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"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | <u>10</u> |

Show your support for all three! \$50

Name:	_____				
Address:	_____				
City:	_____	State:	_____	Zip:	_____
Home Phone:	(____) _____	Work Phone:	(____) _____		
Email:	_____				
How would you like your newsletter delivered? (Choose one):					
Online at the SFRD website (preferred)					
Mailed to my home address					

Please make checks payable to “**San Francisco Reef Divers**” and mail to: Pierre Hurter,
SFRD Treasurer, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



SINCE JANUARY 1ST 1973

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". The General Meeting is held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Sinbad's, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS
Reef Diver Times
C/O Gerda Hurter
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San Francisco, CA 94114