



To: SF Reef Divers

From: Frank and Ginny Barry
Cypress Charters



We wanted to take a moment to thank the SF Reef Divers for your support of the Cypress Sea (and the Cypress Point when it was running) over the years. Your dive club was among our first charterers and you have been running trips with us every since! We appreciate you!

After 22 years, it is with mixed emotions that we announce the sale of the boat. We treasure all the memories and friendships generated over the years, and look forward to continuing the warm relationship we enjoy with many of you through Any Water Sports. Many of the more entertaining stories that have come from the charters involve SF Reef Divers in some capacity - and it has always been a privilege to have you aboard.

With deep appreciation and thanks,

Frank and Ginny Barry

THE PASSING OF THE CYPRESS SEA

By Kenneth Gwin

This is indeed a sad day. Actually, it's been a lingering pain and another lesson on the inconstant nature of our reality.

Some things you come to count on as reliable fixtures in your life, things that are always there, perpetual like the rising sun.

Like dive boats.

The Cypress Sea had become an institution. It was also the last charter boat in Monterey with an onboard compressor and the first to blend Nitrox on the fly. It was the go anywhere, do anything dive boat, defining what adventure diving was all about off the Central California Coast.

But, it more than just the passing of the Cypress Sea that is so sad, but all that Cypress Charters itself, the parent company that ran both the Cypress Sea and the larger, Cypress Point had come to symbolize. It takes a certain kind of bold philosophy to cater to adventure. While other boats and other charters may cater to a certain kind of diver, all the while hugging close to shore, often picking the easy sites, these boats geared up for the best of diving, encouraging any diver that tagged along to catch up with the rest.

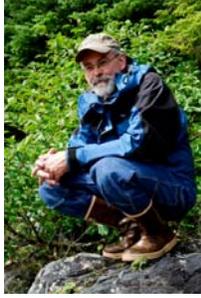
The Cypress Point was the boat that opened wide the doors of one-day adventures, running fast trips south whenever the seas

were halfway flat. The new engines on the Cypress Sea gave the smaller boat all the speed and power to keep that tradition alive.

There will still be more adventures out there on other boats and other times, but like so many things that pass, these boats, and especially the Cypress Sea, will be missed by those that loved her.



GENERAL MEETING
JANUARY 20TH, 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

My last planned dive of 2009 coincided with Hanukah, the Festival of Lights and the first day of the eight-day holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. The week leading up to the weekend was the coldest we had had to date, turned out to be the coldest of the year. Snow in Oakland, rain, ominous wave models, the run-up to the weekend didn't look promising, there were signs, signs were everywhere.

My personal feeling about wave models is that they need to be taken with a grain or two of salt. It's not that I don't have the utmost confidence in the WAVEWATCH III™ © 2009 National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, all rights reserved model. No, it's just that it is after all a model, like climate change and the length of women's skirts; no one can predict the future, at least not all of the time or for a given place, you take your best evidence, predictors of future activity, crunch the numbers, roll the dice and poke around in the chicken entrails. It's like the disclaimer in a mutual fund brochure, "past performance is not indicative of future returns."

I am however heartened that the current model, WAVEWATCH III™ ©, seems to have solved the vexatious issue of the random phase spectral action density balance equation for wave number-direction spectra. The implicit assumption of this equation is that properties of medium (water depth and current) as well as the wave field itself vary on time and space scales that are much larger than the variation scales of a single wave. With version 3.14 some source term options for extremely shallow water (surf zone) have been included, as well as wetting and drying of grid points. Whereas the surf-zone physics implemented so far are still fairly rudimentary, it does imply that the wave model can now be applied to arbitrary shallow water.

Continued on page 4

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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>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<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>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>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>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<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>TBD - Abalone Opener</p> <p>04 - Officers Meeting</p> <p>07-10 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784</p> <p>11 - Channel Island Extension TBD</p> <p>18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</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>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<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>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>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>

Stammtisch from page 2



In short, we arrived at Point Lobos on Friday to find that despite dire predictions from the prognosticators of maritime mayhem the conditions had turned out to be pretty good. The arrangement was for our hardy band of Reef Divers to gather in the parking lot around ten or so and then do a dive or two. Saturday, our plan called for us to meet for another day of diving on the *Cypress Sea*. When we first started planning, who knew that this would be the second to the last time that the *Cypress Sea* went out as a dive boat?



I had gotten a phone message from Ginny concerning our January charter and that I should call her. I figured there had been a double booking or some other SNAFU. I certainly didn't expect a head's up on the pending sale of the *Cypress Sea*, a full on FUBAR. I was in a quandary on how to share the news with the assembled band of merry pranksters. Jim, Norm, Bhushan, Gerda and I as well as Steve and his buddy Jim. Jim is a Great Lakes diver, so he wasn't much put off by the cold, commenting that the 52 degree water seemed hardly worth the effort of donning a dry suit for. I figured we'd do a

dive first and then I'd break the news.

The visibility was in the 10 foot range, nothing to write home about, but surface conditions were flat as a mirror and any day diving beats going to work. The dive went without a hitch, well almost, Gerda had borrowed a regulator setup for a single tank so she wouldn't have to break down her doubles setup. Everything went as planned until the moment she looked at her DIN valve tank and the yoke valve 1st stage, the devil really is in the details. It's not that bad going down the ramp with doubles on, especially when the ramp has been recently blasted free of algae. Coming back in is a little more interesting, particularly with a light swell, but we made it out and back without any major issues. After the first dive we broke for lunch, sun dried olives, ham, a chunk of cheese and pumpernickel bagels and broke the news about the *Cypress*.

Afterwards we headed for the Lone Oak Lodge, checked in, dumped our gear, took a nap and then got cleaned up for dinner. At Jim's suggestion we headed for Fifi's restaurant in Pacific Grove. A charming place to eat, tucked away in a mini shopping complex complete with a Thai Hawaiian eatery, a Mexican food restaurant, Chinese, a caterer and an Italian place across from Fifi's to maintain a sort of culinary Feng shui balance. Anyway, Fifi's was



great; I had the *Steak Frites*, heavenly, when done well a classically simple combination, the fries crispy the meat, red on the inside, tender and waiting for my knife and fork. Other choices included the *Ossobuco*, seared duck *Foie Gras*, braised rabbit, *Moules Frites*, the usual basic hearty after dive fare. Definitely worth a return visit, though I might try Thaiwain next time, just for a change of pace.

It's hard to find fault with a restaurant that provides this bit of wisdom on their menus;

Champagne is good for the morale, your figure and digestion. Low in alcohol, it is beneficial for the head as well as the body. Rich in Lithium (antidepressant), Sulfur (for the growth of nails and hair) and Selenium (prevention against aging cells). More, CO₂ eases digestion.

I ended up spending Saturday on the deck of the *Cypress*, having blown a wrist seal suiting up for our first dive. First the news that this would be my last run on the boat and now no diving, at least for me. That will teach me to replace all the seals at the same time, I had replaced the neck seal with a new fangled neoprene seal, but figured the wrist seals still had a few dives left, apparently only one. Gerda splashed with Royston and I stayed topside swapping jokes and tall tales with Mike and Eric Minnard.

I've been going through my old log books, one of the reasons I keep them is the fun of relieving past adventures, to figure out how many dives I've made on the *Cypress*. Counting dives became problematic as Gerda and I would

keep interrupting each other with, "do you remember the time when ... ?" It makes it hard to keep an accurate count. As far as I can figure, my first dive on the *Cypress Sea* was on November 3, 2001. It was my 112th dive and not the first aboard the *Cypress* lineup. I had made a few dives on the old *Cypress Point*.



In all, there were several hundred dives, having been onboard almost every month for the last eight years. I've spent more time on that boat than with a couple of ex's and certainly always had a better time of it. I can remember several times standing on the dock hoping that Captain Phil would call the dive so that the club would get a credit. Phil practically triple dog daring me to back down and yell uncle. On at least one occasion we strapped down the gear and headed out only to turn back shortly after leaving the harbor.

I grew to love the feeling when wedged into the corner napping I knew we were coming up to our first site by the throttling back of the engines, the slow circling of the area, like a matador dancing with a bull, then the rattle of anchor chain followed by divers gearing up. Or the times the boat would suddenly slow to a stop, rolling in the swells, engines idling as we rocked in the waves watching a pod of whales or dolphins go by. I'll miss the trips when we would head south and you began to wonder if you should have brought your passport or if we were having lunch at the Ventana Inn. I'll start with the foraged mushroom strudel, followed by the rod and reel-caught White Sea bass with a bottle of the Anderson Valley

"Goldeneye" Pinot noir to wash it all down with.

As others have already noted, I'll miss the crew, particularly Max, the Chihuahua - Jack Russell mix, best deck hand ever, even if he did smell funky when wet and once peed on my fins.

The "interesting" music choices, the jokes; the jokes alone have caused me to have to re-take the corporate sensitivity training every year at work; I think they developed a course specifically to counteract Phil's humor. As a result I am now the most politically correct cubicle dweller you will ever meet, I may go into consulting. Still every so often, the "Amazing Morty" makes an appearance, usually at the least opportune time. Did you hear the one about the Rabbi and the Catholic Priest? And as Clinton reminded me, "the Regiment has decided to pay for the repair." I would be happy to expound and expand on any of these jokes ... off line.

The *Cypress Sea* and her Captains and crew are among the reasons I dive every chance I get. For that and the memories I will always be grateful, but I still cracked that bottle of *Laphroig* I'd been saving for a special occasion. Gerda and I made our way towards the bottom spending time at various depths before following our deco plan back to sobriety. I'm afraid that the relief from melancholy was only temporary, but enjoyable all the same.

New Year's is often a bitter sweet occasion, a chance to look back and reflect on where we've been as well as looking forward to what is yet to come. Everyone has their own rituals, the origins of most long ago lost in the haze of memory. One of my favorites is *Bleigiessen*, literally lead melting. You have small lead figures similar to Monopoly game tokens, hearts, shoes, pigs, which you put in a spoon and melt over a candle. Once the figure is melted you pour it into water so that it solidifies into a new shape. Now the fun begins, depending



on the shape you are meant to divine your future. A heart shape portends new love; flowers denote a new friendship, etc.

Of course as is so often the case in life, it's not an exact science, an eagle shaped figure for instance can mean either career success, or imminent matrimony, an unlikely combination at best. Anyway, once we've figured out what the future holds we usually move to the next phase of our tradition, falling asleep on the sofa sometime well before midnight to wake up after the champagnes' gone flat and the confetti has been swept up into the dust bin of history.

(Auf einem Seemannsgrab, da blühen keine Rosen)

On a sailor's grave no roses bloom,

On a sailor's grave no flowers blossom.

The only acknowledgment of our passing are the white gulls overhead

And the hot tears a young girl is weeping.

German sailor's folksong

*"I had the
ambition to not
only go farther
than man had
gone before,
but to go as
far as it was
possible to go."*

Thomas Cook

**OR HOW WE SPENT MANY A
SATURDAY ON THE GOOD
OL' CYPRESS**

By Gerda Hurter



**7:00
PST**

I feel it's going to be a good day
...

Going, going, going South ...
wonder if one should have
brought the passport ...

8:00 PST



...dreaming of
adventures ...

9:00 PST

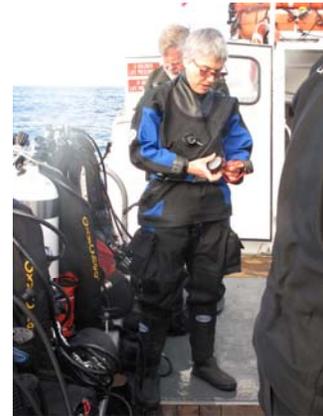


sussing it out ...



learning what it takes
...

"... so one of these is a compass
..."



9:30 PST



finally, ready to take the plunge
...

10:15 PST

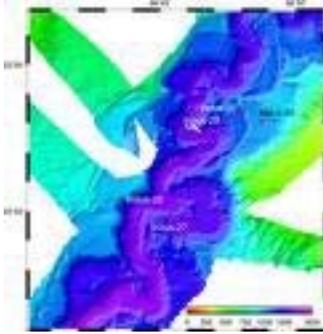
Remembering landmarks:



like "The Cypress from the top
and down below"



11:00 PST



naming of new dive sites, like
Norm's Colon ...



or just hanging out and
comparing notes ...

of course, there were those
special occasions when we had to
celebrate milestone
accomplishments ...

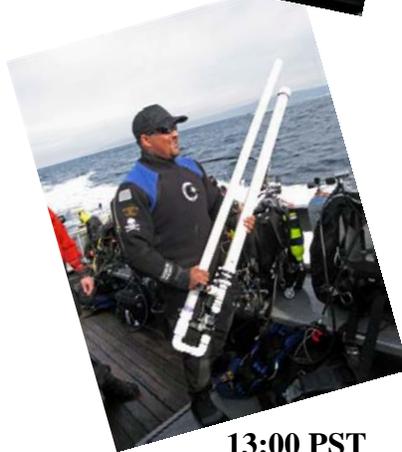


Norms' 1000th Dive off of the
Cypress

Noon

there was lunch of course, but
no pictures, the food was gone to
fast...

and there was the CREW, damn
good crew for that, ready to do
whatever it took ...



13:00 PST

the jokes ...



yeah, the jokes, from "brrring
me my crimson shirt"

... to "it's time for the brown
pants!" ...



14:00 PST



Was it all a dream? ...



No, it was a perfect Saturday!

"Do just once what others say you
can't do, and you will never pay
attention to their limitations
again." Thomas Cook

THE BAGEL WARS

By Kenneth Gwin

The Cypress Sea was many things.

It was by all accounts; the best designed and maintained dive boat in Monterey. This alone should set the stage for great diving. But, the Cypress Sea also served a broader clientele. It served as a platform for research, lending support to many local and out of town projects, photographers and filmmakers, firework shows and memorial services.

These are all meaningful things to look back on, but nothing stands out in my memory like the pirates who infiltrated their crew.

There were a few casualties in battle. There was hand-to-hand with bagels. The Cypress Point took out a windshield on the Cypress Sea during heavy battery practice one day. The High Command and Admiralty of Pirates (authorizing Letters of Marque and Reprisal) suggested other means and other ways be devised to take out any worthy opponents and plunder the unsuspecting, the unaware, the fat ships sitting ripe for the taking.



Remember:

Cannons don't sink ships.
Pirates with cannons sink ships.

Fire as she bears.

TIME TO MOVE ON

By Gerda Hurter



A New Year and New Year's resolutions, holding new experiences, new routines, promising a great year while the second hand slowly but consistently ticks towards midnight.

And so we kicked off 2010 with what else a dive outing down to Monterey.

OK, so it was on the 2nd to make sure all residual celebratory effects had worn off. Should not have been much of a deterrent though with me attending the Mattress Ball (fancy party in German), as my father would label it, promptly at 10:30 on the 31st.

Sounds like the same old, same old routine, you say? Well, by now I am sure you'll have heard that the monthly Cypress charter for the Club is no longer available, which opens the door to new experiences and new routines (check out the online [SFRD Events page](#) to find out what options you have).

The Club, 3 strong (Royston, Pierre and I, unfortunately Loretta took sick and could not make it) met up at the K-Dock to board the Beachhopper II (<http://www.beachhopper2.com>) at 8 a.m.. Besides the crew, Capt. Brian and Luke our safety diver,

we had a couple from Florida, and two local divers on board with one of them from Santa Cruz, and Regina, who we had met on board the Cypress several times before.

The day turned out to be great with temp in the 60s – T-shirt weather – big, long drawn out swells (14' at the point) and conditions ranging from OK to, well, let's just say "I know I am on the bottom, I can feel it even though I can't see it".

We did stay in the bay with the inner bay having the better conditions.

First dive was at Ballbusters, surgy, pea soup with quite a current during our decent but once ducked behind the rocks opening up to 15 feet. The reef was covered with macro life, predominantly strawberry anemones. That's the only thing I remember unfortunately, as I could not clear my ears and sinuses with my cold getting the better of me and the Sudafed I had taken earlier. I was not happy and called the dive heading backup again. Pierre, being a good buddy following to about 40 feet at which time we decided for me to continue up and him to complete the dive.

The last 40 feet were quite interesting with hundreds of carousing Jelly fish, BIG ONES(!). Well, I toasted them by breaking open a bottle of vintage, organic white vinegar once I was safely back on board.

Top side was sunny and it was a good opportunity to chat and get acquainted with Capt. Brian and Luke. There was a lot of laughter, bantering and jokes that day and I felt quite at home. The boat is comfortable, roomy with things neatly tucked away but accessible

– Ok, Ok, so my Germanic streak is coming through here ...

For the second dive we opted to explore the Shalebeds. No problems with clearing my ears this time, but unfortunately, that's where it turned so dark that you only new you hit the bottom because you could feel it.

What was cool though was that there again where hundreds of *Corolla calceolas*, pteropods or pelagic opisthobranchs, for which the common name is *Sea*

Butterfly. (see last month's newsletter:
<http://www.sfree Divers.org/dec09.pdf>)

In addition, Pierre and I had a Mola Mola take an interest in us, circling and checking us out. So all in all, a fun experience.

Since we had the couple from Florida who was interest in seeing and diving in kelp, Capt. Brian anchored in front of the aquarium for our 3rd and last dive with viz and conditions not to bad.

A New Year, new experiences, new routines.

A great day out on the bay, a great start on the Beachhopper II!

Here's to a great year diving in 2010.



Spindrift

For the Do It Yourselfer

Bonham's Auction house, founded in 1793 is one of the world's oldest and largest auctioneers of antiques and fine arts. To start the new year of with something a little out of the ordinary they will be offering a 1925 Bugatti Type 22 Brescia Roadster that has recently surfaced after 70 years in Lake Maggiore in Switzerland.

The Bugatti has suffered some damage during its time underwater; 20% is thought to be salvageable. The car has attracted a pre-sale estimate of €70,000-90,000.



Last Kon-Tiki raft crewman Knut Haugland dies

Knut Magne Haugland, call sign LA3KY, passed away on December 25. Haugland was one of six men, who along with Thor Heyerdahl crossed the Pacific Ocean in a 45 foot balsa wood raft named *Kon-Tiki*.



Kon-Tiki departed Peru for Polynesia on April 28, 1947 to test Heyerdahl's theory that the settlement of the Pacific Islands resulted from migration of peoples who had sailed there.

During World War II, Haugland was a member of the Norwegian Resistance unit which was instrumental in the destruction of the Vemork Hydroelectric Plant.

The Nazis had wanted to use the plant's production of "heavy water" in their quest to produce nuclear weapons. The raid was recounted in the 1965 movie, *The Heroes of Telemark*, starring Kirk Douglas.

S.F.'s Vanishing Sea Lions

If you've been to Pier 39 over the last two decades you probably noticed, smelled or heard, the hundreds of sea lions lazing on the pier, occasionally barking out greetings, snapping at each other and generally acting like they owned the place. They are gone and no one seems to know why.

In October, volunteers with Sausalito's Marine Mammal Center counted a tad over 1,700 of the noisy pinnipeds lying about on the docks at Fisherman's Wharf. Since then the number of sea lions has plummeted. During the holidays as tourists snacked on tiny waxed paper cups filled with shrimp or ladled chowder from hollowed out loaves of sourdough there were only a

dozen or so sea lions lounging on the pier.

So maybe they got tired of the hassles, or the politics, or as one wag proclaimed, “all the locals feed them are vegan burgers and baked brie, who could live on that?”

Scientists Testing Bay Mussels for Potentially Harmful Chemicals

Scientists are studying black mussels from San Francisco Bay to see how drugs and chemicals are making their way into the nation’s waters.

Because mussels are filter feeders, their tissues store any contaminants in the water, providing a record of pollution in the environment. The shellfish are being culled from 80 sites throughout California as part of a pilot study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to see how widespread a wide array of chemicals and pharmaceuticals have become.



The chemicals in question include, synthetic estrogen used in birth control pills, anti-bacterial agents in hand sanitizers and a flame retardant used in computers, furniture and cars can accumulate in the tissue of animals and people.

Six Figure Tuna

A bluefin tuna came under the gavel to the tune of 16.3 million yen or \$177,000 at auction in Tokyo’s Tsukiji market.



The 513 pound tuna was caught off the northern coast of Japan and was among close to 600 auctioned that day. The tuna sold at the auction come from as far away as Mexico and as close as Indonesia, with roughly 60 percent caught in local waters.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas had slashed the quota for the 2010 catch by a third to 13,500 tons.

Dues are Due - Don't Delay!



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
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