

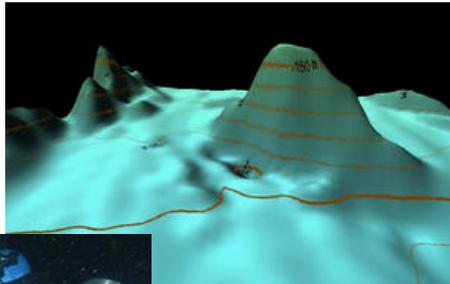
NEW DEEP DIVE

By Ken Gwin

Last week I brought my longtime friend, Ito (some of you have met him along the way), to Lobos and met up with Bhushan and our new friend, Maria. This was a rather “sporty” day with big rolling swells, lots of wave action on the exposed rocks on shore, and very clear cold water.

Today (5/10/10) I went again to Lobos with Royston, to accompany him on the last of his trimix training dives.

Today the conditions had calmed down considerably, but the water color had changed from blue to pale green with a cold water upwelling and a layer of plankton and tiny jellies. Identifying these little guys is impossible, for the most, part, but lets just say, that for now, the big brown Chrysaora have moved on and the little ones are running. There were the uncountable and unidentifiable Mertensiids, Bolinopsidae, Pleurobrachiide, chunks of little siphonophore shrapnel, myriads



of little bells, and all the rest.

Under this surface layer there was clear blue water.

Our dive was at a site called D3, an island pinnacle at the end of a chain of ridges just west of E3 (a famous spot). The top of the pinnacle is about

148 feet. This site is also a single dramatic wedge of rock with shear drops on two sides.

We descended the NW side and turned north, reaching depths of 212 feet. We continued around, circumnavigating the pinnacle, ascending very near our drop site.

Like all spots in this area, there were many sponges, particularly the elephant



ear and the occasional giant white vase sponge. Many small fish.

Very dramatic spot.

GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 21TH, 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

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Reefer's Rap 2010		
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>01 - New Year's Day - Breakwater Dive 02 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 06 - Officer's Meeting 22 - General Meeting - Sinbad's 23-31 - 41st International Boat Show - Dusseldorf - www.boot.de</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 03 - 07 - SF Ocean Film Festival 13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's 19-21 - Our World Underwater - www.ourworldunderwater.com</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 05-07 - The Boston Sea Rovers - www.bostonsearovers.com 24 - Club Dive: Sanctuary 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's 26-28 - Beneath the Sea - New Jersey - www.beneaththe sea.org</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>03 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal 07 - Officers Meeting 16-18 - Ocean Fest - Fort Lauderdale - www.oceanfest.com 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>01 - Bay Area Dive Show - San Jose - www.divechronicles.com 05 - Officers Meeting 15 - 16 - Scuba Show - Long Beach - www.scubashow.com 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's 21-23 - Dive & Travel Expo - Tacoma - www.diveandtravelexpo.com</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>02 - Officers Meeting 13 - Club Dive: Sanctuary 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>07 - Officers Meeting 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Opener 04 - Officers Meeting 08-11 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 11 - Channel Island Extension TBD 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting 10 - 12 Lake Tahoe - Norm Knutson 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>06 - Officers Meeting 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!! 17 - 21 - The Dema Show - Las Vegas - www.demashow.com TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party !!!</p>

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Stammtisch

Pierre Hurter



Omnium-gatherum, a miscellaneous collection, of things, persons, odds and ends, in short the sundry hodgepodge of life. You've got to love the "Word of the Day"; it's one of the reasons I turn on my computer and check my e-mails every day.

To underline my point I came upon this nugget in my never-ending thirst for knowledge. Like many, I've been curious about the swarm of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that have been occurring lately. Having recently read Simon Winchester's *A Crack in the Edge of the World - America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906*, I couldn't help but wonder what causes the rumbles and shakes and are all of these events somehow connected. Is it really all just caused by primal plates deep in the bowels of the earth, thrusting, grinding and in general behaving like teenagers in the backseat of an Olds 88?

Well it turns out, at least according to Hojatoleslam Kazem Sedighi, a senior Iranian cleric, that I was not far off, about the Olds that is. "Many women, who do not dress modestly ... lead young men astray, corrupt their chastity and spread adultery in society, which (consequently) increases earthquakes." So there you have it, another puzzle solved through the power of logical thinking, its

all about sartorial modesty or its lack.

Aside from rambling musings about the nature of natural disasters, we did manage to get some diving in. Towards the tag end of April Gerda and I headed for Monterey and the ever faithful Lone Oak Lodge. Our plan was to hit the road as early as we could decently break away from work on Friday, check out the local sights and then meet up with Royston Saturday morning at K Dock.

Saturday, bright and early we headed for K Dock and the *Beach Hopper II*. On the way we stopped at Peet's for a Cappuccino and a Latte, low fat, of course and on to the bagel shop downtown for some straight from the oven steamy delights. At the dock we loaded our gear, loitered for awhile to talk to Captain Phil who was skippering the *Monterey Express* for an eager group of Reef Check volunteers on their way to poke, probe, measure and generally assess the health of our underwater backyard. Also on the boat was Dr. James (Jim) Grass, of San Francisco City College. When Gerda and I first started diving we took his Marine Biology class. Aside from learning the odd bits of Latin, we spent weekends diving what were to us new and wondrous sites, from the Breakwater to Salt Point. It was a great introduction to a totally new world. If you have the chance, and you have a hankering for knowledge, the class is a great way to learn something about our local waters.

We had managed to bag a couple of spots on one of the *Beach Hopper's* Point Lobos trips. It combines all of the

advantages of boat diving without any of the aggravation of ownership. Owning a boat was once described to me as being akin to maintaining a hole in the water, so that you can periodically make offerings of cash to replenish Neptune's coffers.

Gear loaded, we, Royston, Gerda and me, headed for Point Lobos. This is a great way to dive the park. You save yourself the boat trip down which can be a bit rough at times, but still have the advantages of diving from a boat. When we got to the park we had some time to kill before the *Beach Hopper* made its way into Whaler's Cove, a wander up to the lookout point on the bluff above the parking lot, a little shooting the breeze and before we knew it the *Beach Hopper* was there. Once Captains Brian and MaryJo motored into the cove we slid down the boat ramp and swam to the boat, waterproof bags in tow.

Ever notice that no matter how many times you go diving, there is always some doodad, thingamajig, whatchamacallit, doohickey that you wanted to bring along and once again managed to forget. It's generally nothing important, not a dive stopper, just mildly annoying and you probably put it somewhere where you couldn't possibly miss it as you left the house..

As usual, once we arrived at the Point Lobos parking lot I took a moment to make a list of things I'd make sure to remember next time, blue tarp, solar shower, car key (the one I keep on a chain for this very purpose) and the Otter box for my glasses. Of course we both know that next time I'll be making the same list, possibly even on the back of the last one.

I already have piles of lists on the back of envelopes and on 3" by 5" index cards all over the house, office and those matted remains that you find in your shirt pocket after doing the laundry.

Our first dive was at Blue Fish Cove, visibility was around fifty feet with a bit of surge, just enough to make life interesting. On the first dive I noted a hint of seepage, nothing too serious, the typical damp suit syndrome. One of our fellow divers was not so lucky; he had a zipper issue on the swim to the boat and after the first dive decided to call it a day and swim back to the parking lot. Of course not until he scarfed down a couple of sandwiches and a handful of homemade cookies to build up his strength. Maximum depth was 73 feet with an average in the mid 50's; we puttered around for 45 minutes before heading back to the boat. Dive two was also at Blue Fish, 70 feet max and again 50 feet average depth. This time I had a rolled over wrist seal, way more than merely annoying, this was a leak. Dropped to the bottom and knelt in the sand struggling to take off my glove, computer, and roll the seal out before I lost all interest in the dive. A tad cold, an arm soaked to the elbow, but no more leaking and best of all I managed not to lose any gear.

Two wonderful dives, and once we were topside, sunshine and clear blue sky's waiting for great us. These trips fill up fast and I can see why, they are great.

One of the joys of driving back roads is the serendipitous discoveries you sometimes make. The other day I was heading from San Luis Obispo to Fresno, enjoying the winding hills, new planted vineyards and

dusty ranches of Highway 41, when just after Chalome I saw the sign proclaiming the James Dean Memorial Junction. Fifty years ago James Dean and his mechanic Rolf Wütherlich were heading west on Highway 46, from Los Angeles to Salinas for a day of racing in Dean's Porsche 550 Spyder. Donald Turnupspeed, a student at San Luis Obispo's Cal Poly was heading in the opposite direction, in his 1950 Ford Custom Tudor coupe. Highway 41 and 46 are the same stretch of road between Shandon and Chalome. Shortly outside Chalome Donald crossed the divider to head northeast where 41 and 46 go there separate ways. The rest is history and now there is a sign on the side of the highway making it official.



After the accident, there were fans that refused to believe that Dean was really dead. The rumor began to circulate that he had survived, but was too disfigured to show his face. As to Dean's car, the wreckage was initially put on display as part of a road safety campaign, though the car dealer who displayed it did charge admission. Car designer George Barris later bought the car for parts. Stories about the "haunted" wreck abound, when the car was delivered to Barris's shop it rolled off the truck and broke a mechanics legs. A Beverly Hills doctors and amateur racer bought the engine and was killed in a crash the first time he took his car out. Supposedly another

doctor bought the transmission with similar tragic results. The shell of the car disappeared sometime later, whatever the truth, the stories make for good, well stories.

It's the small things in life sometimes, if Dean hadn't stopped for a cup of coffee at Blackwell's Corner, or if the sun hadn't been hanging quite so low on the horizon. If you're in the neighborhood, buy a coke at the Jack Ranch Café in Cholame and stretch your legs for awhile. There is a tree and two plaques adjacent to the café, one of which has a quote from Jean Antoine de Saint Exupery's *The Little Prince* "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

Saturday we had some errands to run so we decided to take the Market Street Railway downtown. We caught the 1077, painted in the livery of Birmingham, Alabama. Part of the PCC- 1070 series of Single-end streetcars built between 1946 and 1948 for Twin City Rapid Transit Company, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Originally used by Public Service Coordinated Transportation, Newark, New Jersey in 1953. Muni acquired them in 2004 and restored and modified them for San Francisco service.

We headed down Market, rattling and clanking, the car gently swaying back and forth, the conductor ringing the bell whenever someone yakking on their cell phones strayed onto the tracks. The closer we got to the Ferry Building the thicker the crowds became. Hordes of tourists, who else wears shorts in the City, crowded the streets and walked blissfully unawares in front of buses and trams alike. We decided to ride all the way to

the lines end at Fisherman's Wharf.

There's something fun about being a tourist in the town you live in. We hopped off the Street Car and headed down to the Hyde Street Pier and the San Francisco Maritime Museum. There's a great slice of the Bay areas

There's the *Eureka* a steam powered ferry that was built in Tiburon in 1890 and originally called the *Ukiah*, it ferried trains between Sausalito and San Francisco. Or the *Balclutha* a three-masted, steel-hulled, square-rigged ship built to carry cargo all over the world. Launched in 1886 by the Charles Connell and Company shipyard near Glasgow, Scotland, the ship carried goods around Cape Horn (tip of South America) 17 times.

Nearby there's the *USS Pampanito*, a WWII submarine available for inspection. True enough it costs to go onboard these ships, but just wandering the pier can be fun. And if your on a budget, check out the visitor's center at 499 Jefferson at the corner of Hyde Street. Located on the first floor of the 1908 warehouse it sets out to show what it was like aboard ship in the 1890's. Two of my favorite displays are the surgical instruments which along with a manual of surgery were used to minister to the crew by the Captain and the Fresnel Lighthouse lens, a huge brass



structure holding hundreds of prisms in place.

We rounded out our tour with a trip to the Aquatic Park Bathhouse. The Bathhouse building, ship shaped and still being restored was built in 1939 as a joint project of the City of San Francisco and the New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA). The building was designed in the Streamline Moderne style, a late offshoot of the Art Deco period, and looks like it might set sail at any moment.



The murals depicting fanciful scenes of the sunken continents of Mu and Atlantis by Hiaire Hiler have been restored to their former glory and can be viewed in the lobby which is currently open to the public. Having soaked up enough history we wandered back towards downtown.



Stopped by Frank's Fisherman on Jefferson Street to prowl through their collection of nautical antiques and pirate themed t-shirts. They've been in the same spot since 1946 and still have a few odds and ends in the back that look as if a commercial fisherman might be

able to use. Aside from the t-shirts and captains hats, they had several diving helmets, ranging from homemade shallow water setups to a USN Mark V Helium Hat. We lingered for awhile and then went next door to Coast Marine & Industrial Supply to pick up a couple of 3/32 inch drill bits. This place definitely still caters to people who make a living at sea, from the stack if Xtra Tuffs in the front to the Mustang Survival suits hanging along the wall. They also claim the Guinness World Record for the longest ladder, 320 feet long and made by Coast Marine. History is all around us, if we only slow down enough to notice it.



The helium Mark V as pictured above or in tin plate, is available from Desco, call them for a price quote. The standard Mark V goes for \$5,800 and weighs in at a hefty 56 pounds, that along with a weight belt, 84 pounds, diving boots, 35 pounds, diving dress, 15 pounds bring you up to 190 pounds, so shipping is going to cost you. In its heyday, the Mark V was routinely taken to 190 feet on air and 300 feet on mixed gas. Desco has been manufacturing the Mark V continuously since 1942; they are located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and continue to manufacture a variety of both classic and modern diving helmets.

On the way back downtown we stopped at The House on Green Street near Columbus. Normally I'm nervous about anything with

the word fusion in the menu, but the steamed mussels with garlic infused shrimp broth were great as were the curry noodles with grilled chicken and the Caesar salad. For entertainment we had

two French women apparently visiting a non-French speaking acquaintance, all three being women of "that certain age". There's something interesting about people who are probably

very articulate trying to get across fairly complex points in another language. It seemed to go much smoother after the first bottle of red wine rolled to the floor.

2010 CHANNEL ISLANDS TRIP PEACE DIVE BOAT

August 7th through 10th

1. **Price: \$400** - 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 adds your name to the list. **Final Payment due July 1st, 2010**
2. **Boat departs the dock at 7:00 AM**
3. Bring all of your dive gear, including tanks. You can refill tanks with air or 32% Nitrox.
4. Unlimited Nitrox fills will be provided on 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)



4TH OF JULY 2010 CELEBRATION AT POINT LOBOS

The Beach Hopper II has booked the Reserve and will shuttle divers to and from various locations within the Reserve. Food and Drink will be provided. Contact the Beach Hopper II at <http://www.beachhopper2.com> for further information and/or to book your spot.



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> |
| <i>Show your support for all three!</i> | \$50 |

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____
Email: _____
How would you like your newsletter delivered? (<i>Choose one</i>):
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
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