



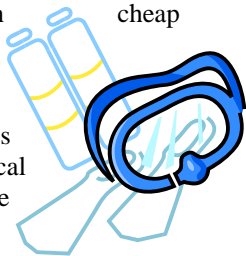
## WHY SHOP AT YOUR LOCAL DIVE SHOP?

By Pierre Hurter

Let's face it, everyone shops on the Internet. Where else can you research everything from exotic to local dive spots, look up and compare every dive light made, or find that site that specializes in buxom gals in vintage dive gear ... no really it's a German site, great graphics, professional photography and terrific close-ups of vintage East German re-breathers.

What's not to like? Who could resist the prices, the variety, no sales tax, the sexy voice ... OK, maybe Gerda was right about the nature of that site after all, the point is, it's hard to withstand the ease of buying online.

So why am I writing this? Everyone knows that I have a penchant for thrift; some might even go so far as to use words like tight, frugal, penny-pinching, possibly even cheap at times. I like finding a bargain almost as much as I enjoy looking for them. That's what keeps me coming back to our local dive shops, they are the real bargains.



You can always get it cheaper, at least initially, but sometimes you really do get what you pay for. If your shiny new toy doesn't work as advertised, can you get fixed, can you find someone to show you how to take advantage of the dual time zone feature, how to turn the dam alarm off? Who writes those instructions? I used to think the Japanese to English translations were the worst, that was before China entered the market and then I bought a Suunto. If it needs to be serviced is there someone you trust out there in the ether with what is after all your life support equipment?

The other day I came up from a dive and noticed that I had a case of Sudden Soggy Sock Syndrome. When I dropped by my friendly local dive shop and mentioned the leak, Frank turned the suit inside out and pointed out the culprit right away. It's

apparently a common enough problem with that suit manufacturer, and it's an easy fix.

After getting my suit squared away, I mentioned that my dive mask, a Tusa model that I've had for years was getting a little funky. The clear plastic has turned brown and there is some sort of black toxic mold that is impervious to hydrogen peroxide or bleach growing in the nooks and crannies. The thing is this mask fits, no leaks, bubbles, gurgles ... it fits, it just has a really off-putting appearance. Turns out that the mask is still made and comes in black (you don't see or notice the crud as much and it looks better in digital images) and I can swap out the prescription lenses to the new mask.

That brings me back to being frugal. If you've been diving for any length of time you probably have that corner of the garage or closet reserved for equipment experiments that didn't quite pan out. Being able to try something on, feeling the fit or having someone point me towards more realistic choices has saved me from some expensive foibles. I'm able to have my gear repaired and serviced and most importantly I've been treated fairly when things didn't work out the way I thought they would.

So visit your local dive shop, get to know the folks behind the counter, you never know who you might meet, what adventure you might discover, what trip might be brewing ... and then go diving.

### GENERAL MEETING

#### MOVABLE FEAST

7 P.M. MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

Check SFRD Yahoo Group site for details

## Reefer's Rap 2011

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
<p>08 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 14 - Paris International Dive Show - salondelaplongee.com <b>19 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 22 - Boot Show - Dusseldorf - boot.de 28 - Baltimore Washington Dive Show - divechronicles.com</p>	<p><b>16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 18 - Our World Underwater 41 - ourworldunderwater.com 18 - Golden Dolphin - Moscow 25 - Texas Dive Show - divechronicles.com/texas</p>	<p>05 - Great Lake Shipwreck Festival - Ann Harbor 09 - SF Ocean Film Festival - oceanfilmfest.org <b>16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 18 - Ohio Scuba Fest - scubafest.org 19 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 25 - Beneath the Sea - New Jersey beneaththesea.org 26 - London International Dive Show</p>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
<p>01 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal 08 - Dive &amp; Travel - Tacoma - diveandtravelexpo.com 08 - Bay Area Dive Show - San Jose - www.divechronicles.com 16 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>20 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 16-18 - Ocean Fest - Fort Lauderdale www.oceanfest.com</p>	<p>14 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>18 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 21-23 - Dive &amp; Travel Expo - Tacoma - www.diveandtravelexpo.com</p>	<p>04 - Scuba Show - Long Beach - scubashow.com 11 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>15 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<p>01 - Malaysia International Dive Expo 16 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>20 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b></p>	<p>TBD - Abalone Opener 14-16 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 <b>17 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b></p>	<p>24 - Colorado Dive Show – Denver - divechronicles.com 17 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>21 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b></p>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
<p>15 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>19 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> 22 - UK Dive Show - Birmingham - diveshows.uk.com</p>	<p>02 - The DEMA Show - Orlando - www.demashow.com 12 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b> TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>10 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 <b>21 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</b></p>

## Stammtisch

by Pierre Hurter



Ever had something that nagged at you, a question that you wanted an answer to and couldn't find? When we were in Chuuk diving on the *Unkai Maru* you couldn't help but notice the brass plate on the deck gun, it's clean and shiny the result of being continuously and thoroughly cleaned of coral and burnished by divers. The plaque peaked my curiosity; it reads EOC. 76 M/M Q.F. N° 12360 1898.



I've been poking around on that font of all knowledge, the Internet and after rephrasing my search a couple of dozen times I finally found something. Between the mysteries of the web and Dan E. Bailey's *World War II Wrecks of the Truk Lagoon* I managed to piece together the story of *Unkai Maru* No. 6. She started life as the *Venus* a 3,100 ton ship built in Great Britain by the William

Gray Company in 1905. In 1911 the *Venus* and five other similar ships were sold to Japan. The *Venus* was purchased by Nakamura-Gumi Ltd and renamed the *Unkai Maru* No. 6.

She was requisitioned by the Japanese Navy for the war effort in January of 1944 and sank after being bombed for two days by planes from the *USS Essex*, *Bunker Hill* and the *Yorktown*.

The wreck was "discovered" by the Cousteau Expedition in 1969. The expedition made use of the hydrographic chart plotted by the *USS Tanner* in 1968-1969

as well as an early side-scan sonar. The team spent two months in Truk lagoon making a total of 480 dives on 30 wrecks.

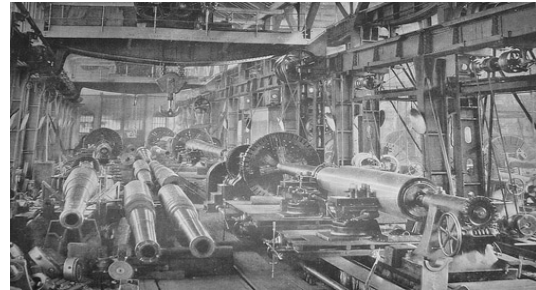
That brings me in a roundabout way to the

plaque on her deck gun. The overlapping letters EOC stand for Elswick Ordnance Company, the 76 M/M is the bore, about 3 inches or 76 mm if you prefer and defines the rounds fired. The Q.F. is for quick feed, the gun was designed for a high rate of fire, always a good thing if you can throw more lead out than an attacker can toss back at you. As you've probably surmised, 1898 is the date of

manufacture. Don't let that fool you, just because the gun was even then a veteran

doesn't mean it was obsolete.

The Elswick Ordnance



Company was founded in the mid 1850's to supply heavy guns to the British Admiralty by Sir William Armstrong. Sir William started his professional life as a lawyer but decided he was more intrigued by mechanical pursuits. Besides what's more fun than manufacturing canons for a living? At its peak Armstrong's company was the only one in Britain, possibly the world that could build a warship from stem to stern, from anchors to deck guns, in house.

In its heyday the company turned out 6,500 tons of guns and their mounts per year. The manufacture took anywhere from 12 to 18 months to complete. Shipbuilders, locomotive manufacturers, war, merchant and "special purpose" vessels were there stock in trade. The company remained in business until 1968.

Today, Deck gun No. 12360 lies in 120 feet of water in Truk Lagoon, forever pointing towards the surface and the skies above. Ever vigilant 113 years after leaving the Elswick workshops.

**2011 Norcal Underwater Hunters Big Abalone and Cook Off Sonoma County Abalone  
Network Fundraiser**

Saturday August 20th 7:00am to 3:30pm  
Ocean Cove CA.

This event is open to free divers only.

Current California Department of Fishing Game laws apply.

Donation Fee's are \$30 if preregistered and \$40 day of event. To receive a free shirt you must preregister. The pre registration will end on 7-20-11 after that you will have to purchase your shirt at the event.

All Divers are required to fill out and turn in a waiver form and show current CA. fishing license and current 2011 abalone tags at sign in.

All Divers are required to register with at least one dive buddy

The check in and measuring for the abalone for the event will be held at the Ocean Cove Campground 23125 Coast Highway One.

Diving can be done anywhere along the California Coast, All divers must return to Check out area by 2:00 pm, No exceptions.

Free diving Divisions Awards (plaques) will consist of:

1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd, 3rd for biggest Ab

Top Female biggest Ab

Top junior biggest Ab

Most Beach garbage picked up

Ab cook off. 1st,2nd,3rd

Etiquette and safety:

The Ocean cove Big Ab comp promotes safe buddy diving and friendly competition.

All divers should be in contact with their dive buddy/ies while in the water.

Eligibility:

Signed Waiver form.

2011 California Ocean Fishing License and Abalone punch card and tags.

Disqualifications:

Any California Department of Fishing Game Violations.

Arriving at the check in area after 2:00 pm sharp.

For more info: call 707-478-1504

\*\*\*THIS EVENT IS WEATHER PERMITTING, WHICH WILL BE DETRMINED ON THE DAY OF THE

2011 SFRD OFFICERS		
President	Gene Kramer	(650) 359-2785 <a href="mailto:genekramer@pacbell.net">genekramer@pacbell.net</a>
Vice President	Open	Gone Diving
Treasurer & Secretary	Pierre Hurter	(415).810.6851 <a href="mailto:sfreefdiver@comcast.net">sfreefdiver@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster	Curt Degler	91-94442154 (India) <a href="mailto:cdegler@yahoo.com">cdegler@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Gerda Hurter	(415) 810.6851 <a href="mailto:sfreefdiver@comcast.net">sfreefdiver@comcast.net</a>
Entertainment Committee	Ken Gwin	(415) 648-7046 <a href="mailto:artfxsf@aol.com">artfxsf@aol.com</a>
AMCR Representative	Gene Kramer	(415) 339-2785 <a href="mailto:genekramer@pacbell.net">genekramer@pacbell.net</a>
CenCal Representative	Debra Gilmore	<a href="mailto:gilmored2@yahoo.com">gilmored2@yahoo.com</a>

# Spindrift

## WOULD YOU EAT IT?



Picture a food product that is thought to be so bad for you to eat that the European Union is trying to ban it, and that's not taking into account smell, it alone can make you sick.

It's called *Surströmming* and is made by fermenting fish. You start with herring which is fermented in brine filled barrels, then canned. The bacteria trapped within the cans continue the ripening process, often causing the cans to bulge. When opened, the aroma of hydrogen sulfide, butric acid along with a smorgasbord of other chemical compounds is so powerful that many people opt to open it outside.

The tasty treat is typically eaten plain on *tunnbröd*, a thin Swedish bread, more creative gourmands add boiled potatoes, onion and sour cream, just to take the edge off.

Those of you hoping to try some are not likely to find it at your organic local market, not even IKEA stocks it. If you decide to stock up while in Sweden, keep in mind that

several airlines including British Airways and Air France have banned it. Apparently the cans are prone to exploding.

The herring used to make it in Sweden contains so much carcinogenic dioxin and PCB, which it absorbs from its home in the Baltic Sea, that it would be illegal to sell under EU rules if not for a cultural exemption that is set to expire at the end of 2011.

The Swedish government is fighting hard for a renewal of the cultural exemption so that Swede's can continue to enjoy their delightful delicacy. For a do it yourself recipe, see ... [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2070108\\_make-surstromming.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2070108_make-surstromming.html)

## JAPAN SAYS NO TO SHARK SHEPHERDS IN PALAU

After Sea Sheppard offered to patrol Palau's marine sanctuary a dispute has erupted for Palau over who should protect a new shark sanctuary. The government of Palau says it is reconsidering an agreement to have the conservation group Sea Shepherd patrol a marine sanctuary in its waters.

The group had offered to patrol at its own expense an area designated as the world's first shark sanctuary. But the Japanese government, which describes the conservationists as "terrorists", objected to the plan

and has offered to send its own patrol vessel instead.

Sea Shepherd has regularly clashed with Japanese whalers and this year forced them to cut short their annual hunt in the Southern Ocean.

## WHAT'S SHARK TOURISM WORTH TO PALAU?



A new study by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the University of Western Australia, suggests as much as \$18 million a year.

The studies analysis quantified the economic benefits of the shark-diving industry to the Pacific island nation and found that its value far exceeded that of shark fishing. Findings from the study, which looked at the reef sharks observed at Palau's major dive sites, include:

The estimated annual value to the tourism industry of an individual reef shark that frequents these sites was US\$179,000 or US\$1.9 million over its lifetime;

Shark diving brings approximately US\$18 million annually to the Palauan

economy, approximately eight percent of the country's gross domestic product;

The annual income in salaries paid by the shark-diving industry was an estimated US\$1.2 million; and the annual tax income to Palau generated by shark diving was approximately 14 percent of the country's business tax revenue.

Globally, up to 73 million sharks are killed every year primarily for their fins, which are used in the Asian delicacy shark fin soup. The Pacific Island States have been among the first to recognize the danger of this unsustainable rate of consumption. In 2009, Palau President Johnson Toribiong declared Palauan waters to be a shark sanctuary in his address to the United Nations General Assembly. Since then, the U.S. state of Hawaii, the territories of Guam and the Northern Marianas, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands all banned the possession, sale or distribution of shark fins.

**ABALONE POACHER GETS PRISON SENTENCE, \$20,000 FINE, AND LIFETIME FISHING BAN**

A San Francisco man who was caught taking abalone out of season three times over a three-week span has been convicted on poaching charges. Qiong Wang, 32, pled guilty to felony conspiracy and taking abalone for commercial purposes in Mendocino County Superior Court. He was sentenced to one year in jail and three years of probation, in addition to being fined \$20,000 and forced to forfeit his vehicle and all dive equipment. His fishing license was also revoked for the rest of his life.

Wang took a total of 96 abalone over the course of a 17 day poaching spree in February 2011. On Feb. 2, a Petaluma Police Officer contacted Wang concerning an investigation of another crime. He found Wang in possession of five abalone. The officer noting that the season was closed cited Wang for four poaching misdemeanors (unlawful take, take of abalone out of season, possession of an over-limit and failure to tag).

On Feb. 12, a Mendocino County Sheriff's deputy stopped Wang for speeding near Boonville. The deputy found two wet duffel bags containing abalone in the back seat. The deputy requested assistance from a DFG warden. Warden Don Powers responded and discovered 36 red abalone. Powers also found five SCUBA tanks and related diving gear in the trunk of Wang's car.

On Feb. 19, five days after being released from jail for his last poaching incident, Wang and another diver were spotted using SCUBA gear to poach abalone from a rented kayak in Van Damme State Park. The wardens watched as the partners collected 55 abalone. The men returned to shore and drove to the Sub-Surface Progression dive shop in Fort Bragg to return the rented kayak. Wardens arrested the two and booked them into Mendocino County Jail.



**COAST GUARD CHANGES PASSENGER WEIGHT GUIDELINES**

Americans' bulging waistlines have pushed the Coast Guard to increase its figure for how much an average passenger weighs. It brings new meaning to the phrase "gross tonnage."

That number is used to calculate occupancy rates. For example, a boat with a 16,000-pound capacity could handle 100 passengers under the current 160-pound standard weight. But starting Dec. 1, the average weight per person is jumping to 185 pounds. That same vessel would be limited to carrying 86 people.

Since the early 60's the Coast Guard's standard weight for an average boat passenger has been 160 pounds. That's been the basis on which commercial vessel operators calculate the number of passengers they may carry. Times have changed and today, roughly a third of American adults are overweight, according to government statistics.

Come Dec. 1, that will be the standard by which commercial boat operators determine their vessel's occupancy rate. For example, under the old measure, a boat with a 16,000-pound capacity could handle 100 passengers. Under the new 185-pounds-per-passenger rule, that vessel could only carry 86 people.

Fortunately everyday private motor boaters are exempt so we should be able to continue to dive Monterrey without having to weigh in or buy an extra seat, at least for now.



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)                | 10   |
| <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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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. Location is announced one week prior to the meeting. Please check our yahoo site for details <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sfreefdivers/> We meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks, food and club business. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

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