



BOAT DIVE CYPRESS SEA SATURDAY, 1-19-02

Since the November 3rd Cypress Sea trip was such a success, the Reef Divers have chartered the boat again on 1-19-02. We have 11 spots.

Three dives (they supply the tanks), bagels in the AM, lunch (sandwiches and hot chowder); all for only \$70. Boat leaves the commercial pier at 7AM

If you're interested in going, please contact Jim Vallario (415-566-0784) and then send a check for \$70 to our Treasurer, Bill Donnelly (P. O. Box 151223, San Rafael, CA 94915).



DECO STOP

November Entertainment:

Sea Turtle Restoration Project
By Ken Gwin

This month's speaker will be Ron Gaul. He is a Marine Species Campaigner for the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Many of us have seen sea turtles in various exotic, warm water destinations, but few have been fortunate to ever see them in California. With sea turtles threatened and endangered world wide, the STRP has launched a program to reform California's gillnet fisheries and work with international fishing and environmental groups to find solutions that balance the needs of communities and fisheries with the needs of the fragile resources and diverse life forms that share our oceans. As divers, let's learn more about what's going on in our waters and support worldwide efforts to protect and improve the health of our seas.

<http://www.seaturtles.org>

We Want You in 2002!

The Officer Elections will be conducted during our November general meeting. *Be sure to come and cast your vote – it counts!*

Monterey -- My Intro to the Cold Pacific

by Wayfarer

Date: 2001-10-27 Location: CAN

COLD, but kelp forests are fascinating.

Monterey Bay, California, Oct 2001

My Introduction to Cold Saltwater Environments

At the end of October, I was going out to San Francisco for a friend's birthday party. I've been itching for some time to see what cold saltwater environments were like, particularly kelp forests. Monterey Bay, a few hours south of San Francisco, seemed like the perfect spot.

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***Photos to this article can be view at:

<http://www.scubadiving.com/members/tripreports.php?s=1047>

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Payments for membership and activities should be mailed to:

Bill Donnelly
P.O. Box 151223
San Rafael, CA 94915

Reefers Rap		Point Lobos Rescue Boats
November 16-18	<i>Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</i> Coordinators: Kurt & Arlene Haworth (510) 724-7253	<p>Thank You divers and other concerned Point Lobos visitors. Here is an update on the replacement/repair plan for the two inflatable boats that are kept at Whalers Cove. I have talked with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) staff at the Highlands Fire Station. Their boat was damaged beyond repair. Their volunteers are raising money to replace it. At this time they have received donations from several local people.</p> <p>Here at Point Lobos, we have already received several donations. This money is being deposited in an account of the Point Lobos Natural History Association. The Natural History Association will front us the money needed to replace the boat and as donations are received they will be reimbursed for most if not all of their expenses. The Point Lobos Natural History Association is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit association and thus donations to them are tax deductible.</p> <p>In the past we have had two boats that were set up nearly the same. Both boats could be hand launched and were very good for working in the area close to Point Lobos. We are looking at the option of replacing one of the >boats with a rigid hull that would be better suited for crossing Carmel Bay> to reach the pinnacle or heading down the coast to Yankee Point. There has been a number of rescues where the ocean was so rough that we had to go very slow just to keep the boat in the water. I remember making a rescue at Pescadero Point when the south wind was blowing. To get back to Whalers Cove, the Coast Guard made a path through the waves and I stayed in their wake.</p> <p>Point Lobso State Reserve</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued to page 5)</p>
November 17	<i>Salmon Swim</i> Coordinator: Frank King Fkk@lelandstanford.edu (650) 368-1921	
November 20	<i>General Meeting and</i> 2002 Officer Elections!	
December 18	<i>General Meeting and</i> Holiday Party	
January 1, 2002	<i>New Year's Dive</i> Point Lobos	
January 16, 2002	<i>General Meeting</i> 1 st Meeting for the year and New Location the BOAT HOUSE	
January 19, 2002	<i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784	

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

Vampire Sitings at Copper Roof

By Kharmen Roman

“Curt the Vampire Diver”



Finally, the conditions were favorable to dive at Copper Roof! The sun was out and seas calm. In attendance were Loretta Lowe, Curt Degler, Adrian Moore, Noreen Mangabay and myself.

The stairs to the right of the Copper Roof house, which lead to the entry point, were knocked out. A quick alternative to a long beach walk with gear was a short, easily traversed trail down to a beach to the left of the house.

We had varied techniques in the group for the slippery rock entry.

Surface swims with bull kelp usually amuse me because I sometimes mistake one for my buddy's head! Did you know that Native Americans used their hollow bulbs to carry water and dried stipes for fishing wire?

My buddies and I decided to head straight out where some kayaks were anchored in the kelp. We descended into a rocky reef covered with coralline algae. Visibility at depth was about 20-30' with little surge. There were lots of deep cracks to peer into. Loretta was quick to spot two small abalones crawling about in a crevice! Another nice surprise was a scallop lodged on a rock face. We also spotted very large white dorids.

If any casting agents for the Fox Network were strolling along Scenic Rd. in Carmel, your fellow Reefers might've been able to give Buffy a run for her money! Its too bad sound effects aren't captured with still pictures. We were in full character post-dive as we doffed our gear and donned our pink and green glow in the dark vampire teeth in the spirit of Halloween. I think Bella Lugosi would've been proud.

The good weather stayed with us, so we picked up some sandwiches and had a picnic lunch on the rocks at the Carmel Meadows...and joined the sea gulls, watching a wedding party on the beach.

For more pictures of our Halloween fun, visit:
<http://www.melibe.com/sfrd/102701/index.html>

President's Corner

September's column was lost in the ether so I'll start where I left off. On Saturday, the 15th, 75 divers and 29 people on shore showed up for the annual beach clean-up in Monterey. Among the Reef Divers in attendance were Kharmen, Curt, Loretta, Mark, Aden, Niki, Gerda and I. All told 2.8 tons of garbage were taken out of the water. For a look at some of the junk collected and the folks who collected it, visit <http://www.jadecarver.com/cleanupdive.htm>.



I can't lay claim to having found any interesting treasures, Kharmen went so far as to suggest I look into a prescription mask, she may have a point. The dive itself was a treat. I had never really spent any time on Del Monte Beach. Visibility ranged from 5 to 10 feet, depending mostly on how much silt I managed to stir up with my fins. I saw some gorgeous purple and moon jellyfish as well as a couple of pacific electric rays.

The clean up was a success in many ways. I can't speak for others, but for me it was important to do something that seemed normal, to honor those who are no longer with us, by carrying on with life. To all who participated, thank you.

Saturday, September 29 found a group of Reef Divers and prospective Reefers at the Aquarius Dive Shop in Monterey. Curt had organized the dive and it turned out to be a beautiful day. Curt, Noreen, Kharmen, Bill, Gerda, myself as well as a contingent of prospective Reefers, Sebastian, Celine, Betty, Loreen (at two, the youngest of the group), and Yann. We made the first dive at the south end of Monastery. As usual, I managed to pick up enough sand to start a good size rock garden. After everyone flopped back onshore, we fired up the barbecue and proceeded to feast on what turned into a huge amount of food. Those of us who could still move made a second dive, I found myself stuck to my beach chair.

Saturday, November 3, 4:30 in the morning seemed to come much earlier than I had anticipated. But promptly on the half-hour Jim Vallario pulled into my driveway with his trusty Isuzu Trooper. We loaded up my gear and headed for Monterey. The Cypress Sea pulled up to the dock at the allotted time and the assembled Reefers piled aboard. You can see the photos that Kharmen took at <http://www.melibe.com/sfrd/110301/index.html>. We had a good turnout, Jan Willstrand, Jim Vallario, Kharmen Roman, Jim Radkey, Frank Onstine, Tim Howe, Noreen Mangabay, Ken Gwinn, Kurt Hayworth and I showed up and had three great dives. We made our first dive at Outer Pinnacles, the second at East Pinnacles and to escape the increasing surge we headed for Hopkins Reef.

November is election month, so come out and support your favorite candidates. If you have ideas as to what direction you want the club to go, show up and make those changes. November is also our annual Sea Ranch trip; hopefully there will be some new faces this year. This is a great chance to get away from it all for a few days and get ready for the hectic holiday season.

We have been meeting at the Presidio for the last two years. It has had its pros and cons. After much discussion at the officer's meetings we have decided to go back to the Boathouse Sports Club Grill at Lake Merced. Starting in January we will be meeting at the BoatHouse again. The only difference will be that we will be meeting on the third Wednesday of every month. I think the boathouse will offer more opportunities for socializing as well as affording beverage and food service. See you there in the New Year.

If you don't see any dives or activities that interest you, pick up the phone, get onto the Reef Diver's chat site or write an article for the newsletter and coordinate one that does. We have people in the club with a wide variety of interests and experiences, bug hunting, abalone diving, spear fishing, tech diving, socializing. Whatever your interests, share your experience with someone who hasn't yet given it a try ... Pierre

KAYAK FOR SALE

Sit-On-Top Double

Manufacturer: Perception (formerly Aquaterra)

Model: Synchro (Color red)

Approximately 15 ft. long, with one hatch in the bow, a well in the stern (with straps) and adjustable foot rests.

Price: \$300

Please contact Jim Vallario @ 415-566-0784

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(continued from page 3)
Material is being purchased to rebuild the boat shed at Whalers Cove. The new shed will be very similar to the existing shed but it will have locking doors so we will not have this vandalism problem again.

State Parks has a closer connection to the dive community and thus will probably receive more in the way of donations to replace the boats. Both boats have played a major role in responding to aquatic accidents in Carmel Bay. We will work with CDF and share the donations so at a minimum both agencies will be as well equipped to handle rescues as they were prior to the vandalism.

Thank you for your interest and commitment to the aquatic programs in this area of the coast.

Respectfully,

Glen McGowan
Supervising Ranger



A reefer's holiday

The Reef Diver holiday party will be Tuesday, December 18 at the Presidio Alliance Building. Bring family, friends and finger food to share. This year there will be no White Elephant Gift Exchange. Replacing the exchange will be some very interesting and unusual party games, music for dancing, and a raffle. It would be great if everyone could donate something for the raffle. In the past we have had sailboat rides, dive gear and gift baskets. If you have a hidden talent or connection to a local business, don't be shy. Donations can be dive or non-dive related. Questions? Comments? Want to help with the party? Let me know.

Pamela Radkey
(510) 527-5282 or
pradkey@earthlink.net

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Good Luck Bhushan!
Team in Training Marathon
2001
We're with you every step of
the way!

October's Ab Feed

A brief note for the Reef Divers Times on the Ab Feed of October 7th:

We had a great affair with 32 guests and 21 members. The abalone was great, and the side dishes fantastic! Everyone got plenty to eat and drink. I brought a big pot of venison-wild-boar-chili beans and they ate the whole thing and said it was great.

I want to give everyone my personal thanks for all the work they did, and a special thanks to my co-chairs, Robert Johnson and Robert Miche. The cooks, preparers, set-up and clean-up crews were outstanding.

Thanks again to everyone.

Roy Didier,
Ab Feed Chair

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(continued from page 2)
An inquiry to the D2D message board got some encouraging responses, so I made a reservation at Pt. Lobos State Park for 22-Oct-2001. One of the helpful responses was from fosterrj (Robert Foster), who indicated he might be able to dive with me. This was a good thing, as I was a bit cautious of combining a beach entry with surge, winding myself around a kelp stalk, and pretty cold water all in the same dive. Robert took all of the photos in this report.

As the time approached, Robert told me about the variability of conditions from one day to the next. Fall is supposed to be a good time to dive here, as the water is generally clearer. But it can be blown out at any time depending on what's coming in from offshore. So we had a kind of vague, flexible plan. He also told me to expect low 50's
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New Years at Point Lobos

New Year's day and our annual Point Lobos dive are just around the corner. The Reserve has some rules governing who gets to dive and how. Here are a few of the rules and procedures that impact divers.

- The Reserve limits the number of diving permits to fifteen (15) teams of divers per day. Each permit is for a team of two (2) divers.
- All divers must register at the entrance station prior to diving. All divers on the team must be present to be registered.
- Diving solo can result in a citation and fine. The Rangers and Lifeguards have been instructed to be more vigilant concerning solo or unregistered diving.
- **Reservations** can be made in one of three ways, by telephoning 831.624.8413, E-mail at ptlobos@mbay.net or using the web site at pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us.
- The Reserve opens daily at 9:00 A.M.; there is an entrance fee of \$3.00 per passenger car, as well as \$7.00 non-refundable reservation fee, payable when you receive your reservation confirmation.

In the past we made group reservations and you signed up with the coordinator. ***The Reserve no longer allows group reservations.*** So, if you want to dive Point Lobos on New Years day, find a buddy and make a reservation now! Hope to see lots of Reef Divers on the 1st. If you have any question, please call me ... Pierre

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
kharmenr@melibe.com
(415) 921-4655

(continued from page 5) temperatures. I've dove in coldish water before, fresh water around my home here in Montana, and figured I could deal with it. But coldish for me was low 60's, with an occasional quick foray into 45-55 and then back to 60's; not any sustained temperatures below 60. So I packed all the neoprene I had. It wasn't enough, but I still had fun.

For the record, I was wearing a 5mm Ocean Reef full suit; 3mm Ocean Reef hooded vest, 3mm beanie on top of the vest hood, 3mm gloves, and wool socks under my 2-3mm booties.

We were diving on a weekday, and decided that in order to avoid the worst of the commuter traffic; we would drive down to Monterey the night before. We spent the night at the Monterey Hostel. It was inexpensive (\$22 each), and worked out fine.

The day dawned foggy, as expected. After breakfast at a local French bakery, we drove out to Whaler's Cove in Pt. Lobos park. We were surprised to discover that there were 13 out of 15 dive teams signed up for the day; usually it is pretty empty during the week. By the time we got there, the sun was burning off the fog. There was a bit of a swell coming in, but conditions looked pretty ideal to my untrained eye. We decided to do the Middle Reef, an easy dive and good place for me to get acclimated. We geared up, eased into the water, did an easy surface swim out, then dropped down.

Wow! What a different world. We entered a forest of giant kelp.

When I rolled over and looked up at the sun shining down, it reminded me of pictures taken in a coniferous forest, where the photographer shoots from the forest floor looking straight up. What you see is the trunks of many trees, with a canopy of

leaves overhead, and the sun sparkling through the top. Only in this case the trunks were the stalks of giant kelp, with small snails clinging here and there, and leave spreading mostly on the surface above.

The kelp stalks weren't nearly as thick as I had imagined they would be from reading, and it was magical weaving through them as we worked our way out the reef and back. I had read enough about diving in kelp to be prepared for the inevitable snags, and managed to extricate myself without too much concern and wild thrashing.

Here are a few images of what we saw (an Anemone, a closed Rose Anemone, a Copper Rockfish with some Nudibranchs, a Keyhole Limpet, a Leather Starfish, an Orange Puffball sponge, a Rose Anemone and Cobalt Sponge, a Vermillion Rockfish, and a Gum Boot Chiton).

I was surprised at the amount of swell. In other situations, after I get down below about 20 feet the swell seems to be pretty much gone, but in this case it was very much in evidence still at 30 feet. Our deepest spot was 49 feet, and we were down for about an hour. Visibility was 20-30 feet. By the time we came up, I was cold. Definitely not enough neoprene. It took me quite a while to get the fingers working fully again.

While I had really enjoyed that first dive, I wasn't sure I wanted to do another one, due to the cold. I decided to reserve judgment until we had a chance to warm up. We went back to the dive shop where I had rented my tank, left our tanks to be filled, had a bite to eat, and poked around the photo shop next door. At the dive shop we inquired about some Metridium fields which were out in the bay off McAbee beach, by the

breakwater where the shop was located. We got some good navigational instructions, and decided to go find them.

For this dive we surface swam out past the kelp, then dropped down and headed off on a compass bearing. Visibility wasn't nearly as good as the previous dive, more like 15 feet. Although I'd never seen a Metridium or even a picture of one that I knew of, they were easy enough to identify when we came to them. They were about 16" tall, with stalks several inches in diameter and heads six inches or so across. I kept expecting Alice or the Mad Hatter to show up.

We continued on, and discovered quite a few Molas, about 18" long and 14" tall, lying on the bottom covered with Bat Starfish. The Molas weren't dead, as their pectoral fins would flutter, but they sure seemed like it. You could pick them up, and they were stiff as a board. We weren't sure what was going on.

Other things we came across were Giant Sun Starfish, a Sheep crab eating a Purple Jellyfish, and some other small crab I have seen on the beach but don't know what it is. Towards the end of the dive a California Sea Lion buzzed us. If only I was that graceful and well insulated!

All in all, a great introduction to the cold Pacific. I hope to get back some time to explore some more, and highly recommend that anyone who hasn't done it try it. The kelp forests are truly magical if the visibility is good enough.

We were fortunate with the weather and the sea conditions; the next day there were big swells, up to 18 feet, with breakers on shore 12-16 feet high.



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/>.

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