



# THE AQUA TOOTER

On the web at <http://www.aquatutus.com>

July 2012

Since 1958... a publication from the Aqua Tutus Diving Club, a non-profit organization established to promote Water Safety and to further the sport of SCUBA Diving.

## August Meeting Entertainment

**Question: What do adrenalin and patience or whaling and rescue have in common?**

**Answer: They are related to capturing marine mammals with entanglements and removing those entanglements.**

California W.E.T. (Whale Entanglement Team) is a group of marine mammal professionals and volunteers under the direction of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources. W.E.T. is tasked with responding to whales entangled in fishing gear and marine debris. These highly trained and experienced teams include marine biologists, veterinarians, mariners, and other volunteers coordinating with several governmental agencies including NMFS, NOAA Enforcement, US Coast Guard, and state agencies under the authority of the Marine Mammal Act.

Kathi Koontz and Pieter Folkens will highlight the planning, hard work, challenges, and satisfaction that comes with the disentanglements of whales and sea lions in our local waters.



Kathi Koontz is a responder for the National Marine Fisheries Service's Whale Entanglement Team (W.E.T.), as well as Program Coordinator for Special Rescue Operations at The Marine Mammal Center. By day, Kathi leads innovative technology teams as a program manager at the California Academy of Sciences.

Pieter Folkens is an illustrator of marine mammal field guides with work published in twenty-eight countries and nineteen languages. He spends summers studying humpback whales and orcas in Alaska as a co-founder of the Alaska Whale Foundation. He is a trainer and captain of their water rescue/whale disentanglement team as well as a leader in Northern California for the National Marine Fisheries Service's Whale Entanglement Team (W.E.T).



You can check out more information at <http://www.marinelifestudies.org/index.php/whale-entanglement-team-wet.html> and at <http://www.alaskawhalefoundation.org/team>.

Come and learn about this work and the teams that I'll bet only a few of us have heard about. I'll also bet that after this program we will all thank and admire this team for the great service that they provide for distressed marine mammals.

## Aqua Tutus Diving Club's

next regular meeting:

Thursday, **August 2nd** 7:30 p.m.

Location: Round Table Pizza

20920 Redwood Rd. Castro Valley

## Upcoming Club Activity (local)

Jul 27-29 Salt Point weekend, POC Connie  
Aug 18-19 Lake Tahoe diving, POC Dennis

check the club calendar at  
[http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc\\_events](http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc_events)

## BOD MEETING SCHEDULE

Weds, Aug 15, Round Table, Castro Valley  
6:30/7:00pm (dinner/meeting)

[http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc\\_events](http://www.my.calendars.net/atdc_events)  
For the most current information

## Salt Point Weekend

**Friday, July 27 through Sunday July**

Connie Klein (Point of Contact) [925-270-5971](tel:925-270-5971),  
[connieklein@astound.net](mailto:connieklein@astound.net)

SEE PAGE 2

**THANK YOU NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS**  
for making this month's AQUATOOTER possible: Alan Throop, Linda Muth, Debbie Driggers, Dennis Hocker, Connie Klein

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## IN THE NEWS

### Salt Point Weekend

**Friday, July 27 through Sunday July 29** is our Salt Point camping weekend. Normally some Tutors free dive for abalone but this is not abalone season.

We are still planning all the other events that we have on our outing: Scuba, Pot Luck—including the now famous ice cream ball, Camp Fire chats, tide pooling, star gazing, strolls etc.

I just checked availability today (7/20) and no campsites are left. If all you tutors are signed up please let me know who you are so I can make sure to include you in our Saturday Nite Pot Luck!!!

Also, if you need us to reserve a spot for you near us, please send me your reservation #.

Connie Klein (Point of Contact) [925-270-5971](tel:925-270-5971), [connieklein@astound.net](mailto:connieklein@astound.net)

**Big Island, Hawaii  
Kona Condo for Rent**  
June 15 - July 13, 2013  
\$400 per week, +tax, resort  
fee, Sat. to Sat  
Contact Don Kelsey  
925-820-8362  
[Dwk.kelsey@gmail.com](mailto:Dwk.kelsey@gmail.com)



### TOOTER PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

**August Tooter INPUT by Aug 20th**

### VDM Channel Islands Dive Trip Sept 22-25

**\*\* SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS FUN TRIP \*\***

**The trip is now confirmed; enough divers has signed up to make it a break-even for VDM. But there are still about 5 open berths, so sign up now if you want to join this fun group for three days of Channel Island diving, comraderie, underwater photography, on-board wine tasting, and maybe a stop at Avalon.**

VDM (Vaqueros Del Mar) Dive Club in Livermore is accepting sign-ups for their annual September 3-day live-aboard dive trip to the Southern Channel islands;

**and Aqua Tutus members are invited to join them as usual.**

The trip is aboard the "Conception" from Truth Aquatics, under Captain Jerry who takes great care of us and caters to our diving. This year the trip departs Santa Barbara Saturday evening, September 22, and returns Tuesday evening September 25. Cost is \$550.

It's a great trip - with good folks, good food, and good diving in relatively warm (70o), clear water, with the same kelp forests that we see up here, but with lots of new marine life. It's like diving some of the outer pinnales and reefs in Carmel, but with warmer water and usually less current and depth. Divers are mostly photographers, but game is taken in allowed areas. You won't find a better deal for 3 days of live-aboard diving anywhere !

**\*\* SIGN UP NOW \*\***

Anyone interested can call Alan Throop ([althroop@comcast.net](mailto:althroop@comcast.net), 925-455-8895) or Bill Delameter ([delameterb@comcast.net](mailto:delameterb@comcast.net), 925-455-6834). Checks can be written to "VDM" and sent to Bill Delameter at 711 Catalina Dr, Livermore, CA 94550 **(please e-mail Bill that your check is on the way!)**.

Thanks, Alan



The beautiful Santa Barbara Channel Islands await you!  
Photo: @Michael Todd Walker



## July Meeting Entertainment Reported by Linda Muth

At the **July 5** General Meeting, our own lifetime club member **Dennis Hocker** presented a great useful and entertaining program on taking care of your diving equipment and how (and when) to do some in-field and home repairs. It was very hands-on, with good questions, comments, and experiences related by Dennis and the audience. Dennis' 40+ years of diving experience and teaching provides a wealth of knowledge to the club, so it was great to have him share this at a meeting. There were a lot of useful "hints" during the program; I'll try to capture them throughout this report.

Remember that – unlike many other sports (maybe sky-diving excepted!) – **our dive equipment is life-safety equipment** and it should be treated accordingly. It's also expensive, so getting a few more years out of it by good preventive maintenance is always worthwhile. Also, knowing how to repair a minor problem in the field can also often save a dive.

Dennis had a great shown & tell discussion on your “**Save-A-Dive Kit**, showing his own basic kit and elabo-

rating on more-extensive spare parts for dive trips that are longer or to regions without dive shops. Basic spare parts can go in a **small plastic box** (middle-left of photo): paraffin (lubricant), a mouthpiece (with small zip ties), silicon grease (O-rings), a “scuba tool” (with all the key tools that SCUBA hardware typically uses), a collection of different size zip ties, a complete set of O-rings (you can buy a small box set of

spares at any dive shop), port-plugs for the Low-Pressure (LP) and High-Pressure (HP) outlets of your first-stage, black 10-mil all-purpose tape (not electrical) or Rescue Tape, a small box of ferrules for hose couplings, spare bulbs for your dive light(s). Other **useful small tools** are TWO small adjustable wrenches to remove couplings from regs (more be-

low), tool-picks, a toothbrush for cleaning, a thin dental pick for removing O-rings, Aqua Seal which can be used as a field repair for a tear in BC.

There are other **larger spare-parts** that won't fit in a small box, but can be kept in a separate bag. Spare **fin straps** are very important, but they need to fit the fins that you are using and have the correct snap attachment to the fin; you can buy a spare set at the dive shop. Dennis noted that when removing

your fins

**DO NOT**

**unsnap the fins;** instead pull the strap out and off. Unsnapped fins are prone to having the receiver-snap coming loose from the fin and being lost. Keeping the snap in place avoids all this.

**A spare LP and HP hose** are important spare parts. If possible, include a full regulator assembly (first- and second-stage) or even a complete octopus assembly. If you use a DIN valve, an adapter to a standard yoke valve should be part of your standard equipment. You should be sure to replace your HP hose if you or your buddy notice small bubbles leaking along the length of the hose; this indi-





## Entertainment Report continued

cates that the metal braid below the black jacket that structurally maintains the pressure is beginning to fail. Always test your octopus before each dive to insure it is properly working.

Another important spare is the **LP BC inflator hose assembly**. Both the hose itself can crack and leak (no BC inflation) or the valve can fail to operate (open or closed). You can carry either a spare inflator valve (upper left in photo) or the full assembly (bottom of photo) that is more easily replaced in the field and backs-up both the hose and valve. Dennis noted that there are several different types of LP inflator hose couplings, so you need to have the **correct type of inflator valve or assembly** for your own BC. He reminded us that if the LP inflator leaks or fails OPEN underwater, you can disconnect the LP hose and orally inflate your BC as needed. Practice orally inflating your BC. It is



always a good idea to practice your basic skills on a regular basis. For example, practice removing and replacing your mask. This will keep you better

prepared to handle a malfunction in your equipment.

Other larger spare

items: A spare **Submersible Pressure Gauge** (SPG) is useful. Dennis called the SPG one of the biggest advances in SCUBA diving (remember the old J-valve!). Again, maybe a full SPG & hose assembly is useful. Having spare batteries for your dive computer or other key electronics is important.

Dennis discussed the **best and easiest thing** that you can do to avoid problems and extend the life of your equipment: simply give all your gear a **very good soaking** in fresh water if you're not going to dive for the next day or two. The salt crystals that form as the water evaporates are sharp and can damage fabrics, plug openings, and cause corrosion of metals. A simple spray rinse will superficially remove the salt, but to really dilute and remove the salt, you need a very good soak for several hours with some agitation a few times. If you're going to dive within a few hours or the next

morning, a good rinse may be adequate since the dive the next day will dilute any salt (if you do not put your gear where it will dry out – like a drying compartment on a boat). But after a long dive trip or if you're not going to dive for several days, give the gear a good soak, rinse the bladder of the BC, and **remove the dust cap** from the 1<sup>st</sup>-stage (keeping it covered can leave enough moisture to cause corrosion). When rinsing the BC bladder, be sure to **back-flush the inflator** valve to get the salt from that assembly. Check all dump valves to make sure they work.

Dennis spoke about **rapid free-flow of the second stage**. Free flow can often occur in the second stage as we giant-stride into the water or from a change of second-stage adjustment (if your unit has one). For the former, just turn the mouthpiece down and it will usually clear. For the latter, adjust the setting adjustment. Sand could also have gotten into the reg, so hitting it against your hand, swishing in the water, and/or breathing heavily through it will often stop the free flow.

If you're underwater, and your second stage begins a rapid free-flow, the best approach is to use your alternate air source or that of your buddy. In any event, a rapid free-flow UW will likely require an immediate safe ascent to the sur-

**Entertainment Report continued on next page**

Occasionally, **slow bubbling** of the second stage comes from "**creep**" in the first stage, where the first stage leaks and pressure slowly builds in the LP hose until it exceeds the usual 130-160 psi specification and the second stage reg begins to bubble slowly. Dennis demonstrated this using a full reg assembly that had a first-stage with creep. He put the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage in a small bucket. When the tank valve was turned on, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage began to bubble after a short delay indicating that the LP hose pressure had exceeded the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage setting. You can also detect this problem by simply attaching a **LP pressure**



**gauge** with a hose-coupling adapter (another good thing for a spare/tool kit) to your LP inflator hose. You can then check the LP pressure and look for creep. You should see less than 5 psi creep in the LP hose. If your first stage shows creep it will require service.



## Salt Point weekend, June 6-8

Reported by Connie Klein

In attendance at the club's Salt Point weekend, June 6-8, were: Dennis, Patti, Dolly, Mac and Tiki Hocker (Dolly, Tiki and Mac are the fine feathered family members); Jm & Debbie Driggers; Linda, Larry and Kathy Muth (Larry and Kathy only for a short while); Craig Herman and Ronnie Huemiller; Bruce (our newest Board Member at Large), Ellen and Ben Hammel; Jimmy Steele, Dave Chervin and Paul Steinberg & Connie Klein (pot luck host and hostess).

Debbie, Jm, Linda, Larry and Kathy did a great job securing campsites in a full campground...it was free fishing weekend (although no sporting goods store would sell just an abalone license)!

Wave patterns were a bit rough, visibility was bad. As Jimmy put it; "If you saw the bottom, you were no further than two feet from it." Abundant sunshine, crashing waves, pretty sunrises and sunsets, brilliant stars, good food and fireside chats made up for the diving dearth. The only person to catch abs was Jimmy Steele who caught them at Fort Ross and gave one each to Dave Chervin and Ronnie Huemiller. Both of whom donated them to the pot luck, whew!

Dennis barbequed the abalone to perfection augmented with lots of sausages. Salads and veggies were abundant. Paul's grilled veggies from his garden were a hit for the vegetarians. Ellen owes us a recipe for her salad.

A Park Naturalist (whose salary is paid by the purchase of campground firewood) guided a hike of the Kruse Rhododendron Park on Saturday (three miles up from Gerstle Cove). May is the best time for viewing blooming Rhododendrons; never the less, there were some stunning vistas. We also discovered a new orchid along with two great pacific salamanders. Did you know that these creatures bark if you pick them up?

A negative tide (lowest tide of the year was Wed, June 4) allowed for a great lecture from the park docent on tide pools, Sunday morning. Here we discovered a mossy kriton along with the usually abundant characters: star fish, anemones, crabs of all shapes and sizes, mussels, limpits, sculpins, barnacles, snails, sea grapes, grasses and kelp.

Lessons learned:

- Don't ever push or 'squirt' a tide pool anemone or squid as this depletes the water supply necessary to support life until the tide returns.
- When tide pooling, don't walk on grasses or kelp if at all possible (slippery), try to always have three points touching something (two feet and at least one hand),

- don't ever turn your back to the ocean as maverick waves can carry you away.

On our way to the tide pools, we noticed a couple of stalwart divers, picking abs from rocks in a drained cove covered in the slippery stuff—at least they appeared to have no fins, carrying ab irons and full bags!

Hmmmm, maybe this is how I can get mine...



## Entertainment Report continued

face. If alone, you could breath from the air from a rapid free-flowing reg if you need it to get to the surface ... but this can also be dangerous - don't put your lips fully around the mouthpiece; just put it near your mouth, let the air flow in/out of your mouth, and breath slowly.

Dennis next talked about **adjusting the second stage pressure** if you don't already have an adjustment knob on your reg. This can go out of adjustment, also resulting in free-flow or difficult breathing. You need a couple of adjustable wrenches to remove the LP air hose from the reg (see your tool kit). Then you can adjust the spring setting in the fitting with a screwdriver. You can replace the ferrule in the fitting if needed (or dropped or lost) with one from your spare kit.

Finally, Dennis commented about **servicing your equipment**. His personal view is that your regs and other equipment don't require an annual service. In fact, regs especially can be prone to damage or mis-adjustment during service, so if you have your reg serviced be sure to mount it on a tank at the dive shop and check all regs for proper breathing, leakage, creep, etc. If you do a service just before that big dive vacation, be sure to check out the equipment by a dive in the ocean or pool before you leave. The old adage applies: **"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."** However, you should be properly cleaning, soaking, and maintaining your gear as Dennis described up front.

The Spring 2012 issue of Dan's Alert Diver Magazine has a very good article detailing how your regulator works.

This was a great presentation for new and experienced divers to learn about their equipment, to share problems and solutions that we've experienced, and to ask questions. The demos were entertaining and useful. As a club, we're very fortunate to have such experienced divers and instructors as Dennis, Jim Steele, Neil Benjamin, and others that are willing to share their knowledge with us.

**Many thanks to Dennis** for taking time to prepare and present this program, and for contributing so much to the club in so many ways.

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**June 20, 2012**

**Reported by Debbie Driggers**

Fritz called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

Present were, Fritz Welss, Jim Driggers, Debbie Driggers, Oliver Edwards Connie Klein, Patti Shannon-Hocker, Dennis Hocker, Dave Chervin, Larry Muth, James Harbison, Alan Throop

### **Entertainment (Alan Throop)**

July 5 Dennis Hocker....Dive equipment maintenance  
Aug 2 Kathi Koontz, Cal Academy of Science  
Whale disentanglement, Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service  
Sep 6 Linda Muth .....Solomon Islands, from May, 2012 trip  
Oct 4 Bruce Watkins.....California sharks: photography & conservation  
Nov 1 Member's Night.....Show your own photos or video!  
Dec No General Meeting ...Holiday party.

### **Treasurer's Report (Greg Gleeson – not present)**

#### **Membership (Meredith Florian)**

51 Members. Dues are due.  
Roster is available at Yahoo Groups

#### **Director of Training (Dennis Hocker)**

Interest in AOW class will bring books to July mtg  
7 & 14 Aug class work at Dennis's house  
18 & 19 Aug dives at Tahoe  
Remaining dives at a time to be determined

#### **Newsletter (Don Kelsey)**

Info due around the 20th

#### **Webgoddess (Patti Hocker)**

Website is up to date

#### **Special Committee: Holiday Party**

December 8 at La Cabana, 7:00 pm.

#### **Old Business none**

#### **New Business**

What to do for future meals for BOD? Dennis willing to do some scouting for future dinners Jim suggested a BYO plan

How do we generate interest in the club? Meeting reminder for each club meeting? Entertainment programs with local critter ID, local dive sites.... Photo scavenger hunt, navigation course, guided dives

Chuck Tribolet possible presenter in the future

Dave Chervin offers to lead a critter ID dive.

We need to get a roster that can be printed and available to all paid members. All club distributions should be only by BCC

Discussion of making Alan Throop a lifetime member, should be discussed and voted at the general meeting.

#### **Upcoming Events**

##### **2012**

June 23 – club dive at Mac Abee 9am meeting– POC – Jim Driggers

July 19 BOD, THURSDAY location TBD

July 21 Bird and Whale watching at the Farallons \$89 for the day, POC Linda Muth

July 28-29 Salt Point, Connie POC

Aug 15 BOD, WEDNESDAY location TBD

Aug 18-19 Tahoe AOW

August 26 - September 9. Chuuk --No openings.

Sept 15 – Wharf 2 – POC Meredith and Fritz

Sept 20 BOD, THURSDAY location TBD

Sept 22-25 Saturday to Tuesday - - Conception Trip – VDM – POC Alan Throop

Oct 18 BOD, THURSDAY location TBD

NOV 15 BOD, THURSDAY location TBD

DEC 8 Holiday Party

DEC 15 – Jan 2 Cozumel

### **2013**

Indonesia April 17 - 27

### **Meetings**

#### **Next Membership meeting:**

Thursday July 6, 7:30 pm, Round Table, Castro Valley (7 pm social)

#### **Next BOD meeting:**

July 19 location TBD, 6:30 dinner, 7:00 pm meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

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## **General Meeting Minutes**

**July 5, 2012**

**Reported by Debbie Driggers**

Meeting called to order by President Oliver Edwards at Round Table Pizza in Castro Valley, CA at 7:34 pm.

**Guests:** Jamie and Patrick Kennedy, Cendrrine

**Entertainment** by Dennis who raffled off an external pressure gauge won by Tim

#### **Future Meeting Entertainment (Alan Throop):**

**See the June BOD meeting notes.**

#### **Treasurer's Report (Greg not present)**

? in the checking and savings. We're paid up with CenCan for the year

#### **Membership (Meredith Florian-Not present) 51 (?) members.**

#### **Training (Dennis Hocker)**

An advanced open water class is scheduled for 18-19 Aug. Academics Aug 7 and 14 at Dennis's house in Newark.

\$75 for books please advise Dennis before next meeting so he can bring.

For more information on training contact Neil Benjamin (510) 673 -0073 [neil.benjamin@lamrc.com](mailto:neil.benjamin@lamrc.com) or

Dennis Hocker (510) 792-5606 [dennis@rxscuba.com](mailto:dennis@rxscuba.com)

#### **Cen Cal Report**

Meeting minutes are being received

#### **Newsletter (Don Kelsey)**

Input is due by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Web Goddess (Patti Shannon)**

Newest newsletter and classes are up, all up to date.

#### **Special Committee**

December 8 is the date for our Holiday party this year.



## **General Meeting Minutes continued**

### **Old Business:**

- Nomination of Alan Throop as Lifetime member.
- Plans to increase participation in club – one on one fish id dives, Dave Chervin offered to lead fish id dives or a pre-dive training class, underwater scavenger hunt, photo contest for newer divers using loaner cameras as an entertainment for the culmination of this program.

### **New Business:**

- Alan Throop voted into Life Membership.
- California Dive News – this issue has a lot of good articles be sure to pick one up

### **Past Dives:**

- Club dive at MacAbee – Jim was the only diver to show up. Jim did his first planned solo dive. Surface vis looked good, calm conditions. The first 5 feet were good but from about 5-15 feet there was a bad black tide. Vis opened up below that layer to what looked like a twilight dive. Lots of good critter watching. 55degrees, 75 min, 30ft max depth
- Elaine dove Aruba, all dives in one location but she was surprised that it was very lacking in color and very monochrome. Nice topography and good vis but very little color, no large fish. Great trip otherwise.
- Stacy - New to ReefCheck, dove Stillwater Cove. Good vis, lots of vegetation in numerous varieties. Dave Chervin was also on this dive and reports lots of good fish life.

**Bone Award none**

**Raffle is suspended for the time-being.**

### **Upcoming Activity:**

#### **2012**

Oliver is diving tomorrow, call him if you want to join  
July 19 - BOD  
July 21 – whale watching Farallons POC Linda Muth  
July 28-29 – Salt Point POC Connie Make reservations with ReserveAmerica  
Aug 2 – General meeting  
Aug 7 & 14 – AOW classwork at Dennis's house  
Aug 15 – BOD  
Aug 18-19 – AOW class at Tahoe  
Aug 26 to Sept 9 Chuuk. \$5200 plus air fare Dennis is POC.  
Sep 15 – Wharf Two  
Sep 22- VDM Conception trip to Channel Islands – Contact Alan  
Dec 8 – Holiday Party  
Dec 15 – Jan 2 Cozumel, Patti POC

#### **2013**

**Apr 17 – 27** Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia (POC Dennis)  
\$1700/person 10 nights double occupancy round trip. San Fran to Singapore to Manado. Add Air Fare....somewhere in the \$1700 range.

**2014** Philippines with Dennis, details to be determined

**Next BOD meeting:** Thurs, July 19, Round Table Castro Valley (6:30 pm dinner/7:00 meeting)

**Next Membership meeting:** Thurs, Aug 2, 7:30 pm, Round Table, Castro Valley (7 pm social).

Meeting Adjourned: 9:07 pm.

## **BOD Meeting Minutes July 19, 2012 Reported by Debbie Driggers**

Meeting called to order by President Oliver Edwards at Round Table Pizza in Castro Valley, CA at 7:06 pm.

Future Meeting Entertainment (Alan Throop):

**See the June BOD notes, page 5**

### **Treasurer's Report**

\$7,191.00 in the checking and savings. We're paid up with Cen-Cal for the year

### **Membership (Meredith Florian-Not present)**

51 (?) members.

### **Training (Dennis Hocker)**

- Five people signed up so far. Advanced open water class is scheduled for 18-19 Aug. Academics Aug 7 and 14 at Dennis's house in Newark.
- \$75 for books, **please advise Dennis before next meeting so he can bring.**
- For more information on training contact Neil Benjamin (510) 673-0073 [neil.benjamin@lamrc.com](mailto:neil.benjamin@lamrc.com) or Dennis Hocker (510) 792-5606 [dennis@rxscuba.com](mailto:dennis@rxscuba.com)

**Cen Cal** Meeting minutes are being received

**Newsletter (Don Kelsey)** Input is due by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Web Goddess (Patti Shannon)**

Newest newsletter and classes are up, all up to date.

### **Special Committee:**

#### **Old Business:**

#### **New Business:**

#### **Past Dives:**

**Bone Award none**

### **Upcoming Activity:**

#### **2012**

July 21 – whale watching Farallons POC Linda Muth  
July 28-29 – Salt Point POC Connie Make reservations with ReserveAmerica  
Aug 2 – General meeting  
Aug 7 & 14 – AOW classwork at Dennis's house  
Aug 15 – BOD – Round Table  
Aug 18-19 – AOW class at Tahoe  
Aug 25 - DUI dry suit demo in Monterey  
Aug 26 to Sept 9 Chuuk. \$5200 plus air fare Dennis is POC.  
Sep 15 – Wharf Two POC Meredith and Fritz  
Sep 22- VDM Conception trip to Channel Islands – Contact Alan  
Oct – Oliver dive POC date and location to be advised  
Nov – Larry dive POC date and location to be advised  
Dec 8 – Holiday Party  
Dec 15 – Jan 2 Cozumel, Patti POC

#### **2013**

**\*\* New dates\*\* Apr 15 – 25** Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia (POC Dennis) \$1800/person 11 nights double occupancy round trip. San Fran to Singapore to Manado. Add Air Fare, somewhere in the \$1700 range.

**2014** Philippines with Dennis, details to be determined

## General Meeting Minutes continued

**Next BOD meeting:** Wednesday Aug 15 at Round Table Castro Valley (6:30 pm dinner/7:00 meeting)

**Next Membership meeting:** Thursday, August 2 at 7:30 pm, Round Table, Castro Valley (7 pm social).

Adjourned: 7:32 pm.

**Big Island, Hawaii  
Kona Condo for Rent**  
June 15 - July 13, 2013  
\$400 per week, +tax, resort  
fee, Sat. to Sat  
Contact Don Kelsey  
925-820-8362  
Dwk.kelsey@gmail.com



### **Vince and Becky Hoffmann in Hawaii reported by Aloha Joe**

Tooters Vince and Becky Hoffmann arrived on the Big Island on 6/29/12 in the usual way, they swam over from California. I could have exaggerated slightly.

The veteran Hawaiian island-hoppers settled quickly into Don's timeshare at the conveniently located Kona Billfisher in Kailua Village in the Kona district. One of the advantages of Don's timeshare is that it is a short walk to almost anywhere in Kailua Village. The current 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and fireworks can be viewed from the balcony, but most people like to walk a very short distance to the view these at the waterfront.

Vince and Becky took advantage of the warm calm water of the island and scheduled 3 boat dives while here. One, not to be missed, was the manta ray night dive on Tuesday night. Imagine a magnificent 16 feet wide underwater animal akin to the Starship



Enterprise sliding past your mask 6 inches away from it. We call her Big Bertha.

As fortune would prevail, they were able to view a rare and endangered monk seal at the beach by King Kamehameha Hotel. On Monday night, Lea and I were fortunate to have dinner with and meet Vince and Becky at the Fish Hopper restaurant on Ali'i Drive in the heart of Kailua Village while we watched the canoes practice for upcoming races.

I have assembled a list of quite a few favorite shore dive spots which I am willing to share as long as I am able to tag along. While I was disappointed that we would not be diving together on



this trip, Vince and Becky promised that they would certainly contact me when their next trip rolls around and they would fit in a few shore dives into their busy schedule. We can get into the water most places the dive boats go and for a tank fill cost. My current tank fill cost is \$2.40 and the boat operators charge about \$90.00 for a two tank afternoon dive or about \$130.00 for a two tank morning dive. Many of the Tooters have enjoyed places like "The Death Hole", "Hole in the Ceiling", and "Monument" when they have visited. By the way, two of these sites were named by Aqua Tutus member Jeff Tindall on a visit with Aloha





## 2012

Jul 27-29 Salt Point, Connie POC  
 Aug 2 Members meeting, Round Table Pizza  
 Aug 15 BOD meeting, Round Table Pizza  
 Aug 18 9am Advanced Class Dives at Tahoe -- Sand Harbor (Nevada side)  
 Aug 19 9am Advanced Class Dives @ Tahoe -- D.L. Bliss State Park  
 (California side)  
 Aug 26 - Sep 9 Chuuk  
 Sept 6 Members meeting, Round Table Pizza  
 Oct 4 Members meeting, Round Table Pizza  
 Nov 1 Members meeting, Round Table Pizza  
 Dec 8 Holiday Party at La Cabana  
 Dec 17 – Jan 1 Cozumel (POC Patti)

## 2013

Apr 15-25 North Sulawesi [dennis@rxscuba.com](mailto:dennis@rxscuba.com)



[http://reefcheck.org/rcca/rcca\\_home.php](http://reefcheck.org/rcca/rcca_home.php)

### ATDC Dive Training

Check <http://www.aquatutus.com/activities.htm>  
 Aug 7, 7 -10pm Advanced Class Regis. & Academics  
 Aug 14, 7 -10pm Advanced Class Academics  
 Aug 18, 9am Advanced Class Dives at Tahoe  
 Aug 19, 9am Advanced Class Dives @ Tahoe

- Dates are tentative, depend on participation, check the webpage
- Classroom sessions held at Dennis' house, 38962 Larkspur Street, Newark, CA
- For more information contact
- Neil Benjamin: (510) 673-0073  
[neil.benjamin@lamrc.com](mailto:neil.benjamin@lamrc.com)
- Dennis Hocker: (510) 792-5606  
[dennis@rxscuba.com](mailto:dennis@rxscuba.com)

### What is a "POC"

The "POC" is a Point of Contact for a club dive. Any member is welcome to plan a dive and put in on our web site calendar. You don't have to be a dive master, or the director of training, or a board member to do this. Any club dive is done with the expectation that there will be people there to help.

### 2011 Club Officers/Volunteers

**President**  
 Oliver Edwards [ode5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ode5@sbcglobal.net)  
**Vice President**  
 Fritz Welss [fawelss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fawelss@sbcglobal.net)  
**Secretary**  
 Connie Klein [connieklein@astound.net](mailto:connieklein@astound.net)  
**Treasurer**  
 Greg Gleeson [gag1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gag1234@sbcglobal.net)  
**Membership Chair**  
 Meredith Florian [meredithnp@yahoo.com](mailto:meredithnp@yahoo.com)  
**Training Director**  
 Dennis Hocker [dennis@rxscuba.com](mailto:dennis@rxscuba.com)  
**Cen Cal Representative:**  
**Entertainment Chair**  
 Alan Throop [althroop@comcast.net](mailto:althroop@comcast.net)  
**Newsletter Publisher**  
 Don Kelsey [dwk.kelsey@gmail.com](mailto:dwk.kelsey@gmail.com)  
**Board Members @ Large:**  
 Debbie Driggers [driggers@astound.net](mailto:driggers@astound.net)  
 Larry Muth [lnmuth@comcast.net](mailto:lnmuth@comcast.net)  
 Chris Stensager [cdelaine@pacbell.net](mailto:cdelaine@pacbell.net)  
**Past President**  
 Jim Driggers [jdriggers@astound.net](mailto:jdriggers@astound.net)  
**Web "Goddess"**  
 Patti ShannonHocker [scubamom@rxscuba.com](mailto:scubamom@rxscuba.com)  
**ATDC Web page:** [www.aquatutus.com](http://www.aquatutus.com)

**Keep up with California Diving, read  
 California Diving News**  
<http://www.cadivingnews.com/>

For quick access to *Chuck Tribolet's*  
Internet Resources  
for the Bay Area Diver  
<http://www.garlic.com/~triblet/swell/>

News from the Monterey Bay  
National Marine Sanctuary

Keep in touch by surfing over to:  
<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>

For updates on the Joint Management  
**Plan review process, surf over to:**  
<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>

For Cencal updates and calendar  
<http://www.cencal.org/>



Aqua Tutus Diving Club  
P.O. Box 11952  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
*North Coast Diving since 1958*