

BOTTOM TIMES

Newsletter for the Redwood Empire Divers Scuba Club
August 2004

August General Meeting

August 5th at Round Table Pizzeria,
7:00 PM. We will be discussing the
upcoming Van Damme Campout.

NEW CLUB T-SHIRT DESIGN

The printer's recommendations for the sweat-shirts are to avoid the natural color (tan), as they don't look as good as the white or gray. The long sleeve shirts are fine in either color. There are no short sleeve t-shirts, pocket shirts, v-necks or other sizes available so please don't ask. The printer will not accept any shirts sent in by members. Please submit your check or cash for the full amount (put the number of each type of shirt and your name on the order form below) to any officer at a club meeting or function. Or mail them to the club PO Box. The final order will be submitted after the September meeting.

S M L XL XXL

White Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
\$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00

Natural (Tan) Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
\$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00 \$31.00 \$31.00

Lt Gray (Ash) Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
\$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00 \$31.00 \$31.00

White Long-Sleeve Sweatshirt
\$35.00 \$35.00 \$35.00 \$35.00 \$35.00

Natural (Tan) Long-Sleeve Sweatshirt
\$35.00 \$35.00 \$35.00 \$36.00 NA

Lt Gray (Ash) Long-Sleeve Sweatshirt

CAMPOUT VANDAMME

The club has six individual campsites reserved for Thursday through Sunday 8-5 to 8-8. Unfortunately, we did not get the group site due to the increasing demand for camping. The individual campsites are listed under Eric Sedletzky, Jed Douglas and Gary Baumel. Larry Cook will be arriving on Thursday afternoon, and everyone is encouraged to come early to help get the best campsites (since the reserved individual sites are chosen by first come basis). The plan is to be at the end of the main road by the amphitheater, but the location will be posted at the main gate.

Van Damme State park was established in 1934. It is located three miles south of the town of Mendocino on highway 1. The highway runs through the park separating the campground and the Fern Canyon trail head to the east and the beach and parking lot to the west. Plan on at least two and a half hours to get there from Santa Rosa.

August Business Meeting At NEW Location!

The next business meeting is on August 19th, at the Sonoma Taco Shop in Rohnert Park (913 Golf Course Drive) at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome. The July business meeting was attended by Dale, Larry, Gary, Jed & Kim. They talked about moving the business meeting to a place that has cheaper dinner, the upcoming Van Damme campout and the Shelter Cove campout.

Lawson's Landing Campout

The first club campout at Tomales Bay was rather under attended. New members Mark & Cheryl Davis arrived on Friday to hold a camping spot for the club, and were joined by Jerry Jones. On Saturday, Paul D., Jed D., and Eric H. arrived to go diving. Paul stated that Dave B. was supposed to be there with his boat but he was nowhere to be found. While watching a guy from Lodi bury his truck in the sand while trying to launch his boat, Jed decided to pull the poor guy out with his Toyota. The guy was so happy to have help that he offered to take the three of us out fishing. Jed hooked a small salmon in the mouth of the Bay but he broke off. Nobody else caught anything. Mark & Jerry went diving in the afternoon on Jerry's boat, and while they saw a lot of flatties, none were shot. So the potluck dinner consisted of whatever people had brought along, since we had no fish. Gary B. and Beverley showed up for dinner, and the Mendoza clan arrived later on. Dinner was great, but everybody left after dinner except Mike & Co. On Saturday morning, we learned that Dave B. had boat trouble the day before, so he jumped into Mike's boat with me and off we went to Elephant rock to fish for salmon. I hooked a huge fish right away but managed to lose him 20 feet from the boat, then I hooked a shaker. Nothing happened for a long time till we went down to 10-mile and found the bait and birds. We landed 5 salmon, all trout size except for Mike's 25-pounder. We got back to the beach by 4 and everyone went home.

History of Van Damme State Park

Of all park system units along the Mendocino coast, Van Damme is perhaps the richest in terms of historical resources connected with the redwood lumber industry. Its story is a prime example of the struggles and eventual failures of a small, independent lumber operation.

Van Damme State Park was named for Charles Van Damme who was born at Little River in 1881, son of John and Louise Van Damme, early settlers of the region. John Van Damme and his wife were a Flemish couple. The patriarch of the family was born in Ostend, Belgium on May 22, 1832.

"Following the sea" for some years, Van Damme, upon his arrival in Mendocino County, later worked in the lumber mill at Little River. In this settlement all of his children were born, including Charles, whose love for the area prompted his acquiring, after some years as a successful operator of the Richmond-San Rafael ferry line, a plot of ground along the redwood coast. Upon his demise this area became a part of the State Park System in 1934.

In those early days lumbering was a major economic factor in the development of the northern coastline. Little River was built as a mill town in 1864 by Ruel Stickney, Silas Coombs and Tapping Reeves after the property, formally called Kents Cove, was purchased from W. H. Kent in 1862.

Before long it had attained fame, not only as a lumber port, but as a shipyard; but a stand of timber, if logged, does not last forever and by the end of the century, even though logging was periodically moved back into the headwaters of Little River, the mill was forced to close (1893). What there was left of Little River soon deteriorated; the shipyard, the wharf, the town, several chutes for loading lumber and the lumber mill itself. Activity at the port, which once hummed with activity, declined. Little River's school, once attended by close to 100 students, closed; its weekly steamship service ended, and a shipyard where, in 1874, Captain Thomas Peterson turned out full-size lumber schooners for the coast wide trade, phased out. Only the schooner Little River returned, to be wrecked on the very beach from which it originally departed. Plagued by a lack of sufficient timber reserves, fires, loss of substantial business, deterioration of wharf's and chutes, the end of coast wide shipping and the attendant decline in population, Little River reverted to a natural state. Its acquisition by the State Park System in 1934, and the subsequent addition of peripheral lands has preserved some of California's most interesting natural resources.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Start at 7:00 pm at the Stony Point Round Table Pizzeria, 2065 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa (Just west of Stony Point Road on the north side of Hwy 12)

DIVES!

Single day dives meet at 8:00 am. Alternate dives take place two weeks later at the same time and location as the first dive, but only if the scheduled dive is cancelled.

CLUB EQUIPMENT

Videos - Tom Stolzheise
Marine Radio - Jock Doss
O2 Kit - Mike Mendoza
Fish & Ab Log - Mike Mendoza
Picnic Supplies - Dave Batt
Contact these members for use of the equipment.

CLUB OFFICERS

Dale Swift - President
Jock Doss - Vice President
Keri Cline - Secretary
Charles Dollwet - Treasurer
Jed Douglas - Newsletter Editor

RED Events Calendar 2004

April

4-1 General Meeting
4-3 Fisk Mill Cove Ab opening
4-15 Business Meeting

May

5-6 General Meeting
5-8 Arena Rock
5-20 Business Meeting
5-29 to 5-31 Charles' Holiday campout

June

6-3 General Meeting
6-5 to 6-6 Ocean Cove Campout
6-17 Business Meeting

July

7-8 General Meeting & Potluck at Finley Park (2nd Thursday)
7-9 to 7-11 Lawson's Landing campout
7-22 Business Meeting

August

8-5 General Meeting
8-5 to 8-8 Van Damme Campout
8-19 Business Meeting-Taco Shop
8-21 Shelter Cove Red Expedition
8-28 J & K 20th anniversary party

September

9-9 General Meeting (2nd Thursday)
9-10 to 9-12 Russian Gulch Campout
23 Business Meeting
25 Rich's Flatty dive

October

10-1 to 10-4 Two Harbors adventure
10-7 General Meeting
10-9 Tomales Halibut
10-21 Business Meeting
10-23 Gary's crab dive
TBA Bamboo Reef Pumpkin Dive

November

11-4 General Meeting
11-6 Anchor bay
11-11 to 11-13 Lobster Dive on the Peace
11-18 Business Meeting

December

12-2 General Meeting
12-4 Timber Cove
12-11 Christmas Party
No Business Meeting

Redwood Empire Divers
PO Box 2971
Petaluma, CA 94953

Stamp
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ATTENTION: One spot open on the club lobster boat. Talk to Gary to get your place on board!

TO:

Check us out on the web!
www.redwoodempiredivers.com