

# BOTTOM TIMES

**Newsletter for the Redwood Empire Divers Scuba Club  
October 2003**

## **October General Meeting**

October 2, Round Table Pizzeria, 7:00 PM.  
We will be discussing the upcoming Tomales Bay dive, the club lobster trip, and Jock's member sponsored bug campout.

## **TOMALES BAY HALIBUT DIVE**

This months club dive is at Tomales Bay, home of the elusive barn door, or flatty, as we like to refer to the California Halibut. This tasty fish is found in 10 to 20 feet of water, just laying about on the sand waiting for you to drift by. Meet at the beach at Lawson's Landing at 0700 on the morning of October 4th. It will cost you 5 bucks to get into Lawson's, which is located west of the town of Tomales. Follow the main road from Tomales toward Dillon Beach all the way to the coast, sharp left down the hill by Dillon Beach, then follow the road to the gate at Lawson's. Try to arrange a boat ride at the general meeting, as that is the only way to get to the mouth of the bay, unless you can arrange a boat owner to give you a tow for your kayak, as the current can be very strong. But we want strong current, as the idea is to jump out of the boat and hit the bottom in a hurry, then drift into the bay while daydreaming with your fingers clenched on the trigger of your speargun. If you do not want to hunt, drifting the western edge of the mouth allows you to see rocks, fish,

crabs and other marine life as you try to avoid crashing into the rocks while you speed by. Its pretty exciting if you find a halibut, especially when a huge one bursts up out of the sand right beneath you, and you only have time to watch it swim away.

## **October Business Meeting**

The next business meeting is on October 16, at the Redwood Café' in downtown Cotati at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome, and it is time to start thinking about the schedule for next year, as it will be decided at the November business meeting. The September business meeting was attended by Jock, Paul, Mike, Jed & Kim. They discussed Jock's upcoming Santa Rosa Island Campout.

## **Charles' 10.5 Inch Abalone**



## Jocko's Channel Island Campout October 18-20

Greetings all. Weather permitting, I hope to venture out to Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands on the above mentioned dates. I have obtained a back country camping permit for Santa Rosa Island as an option for the weekend as well.

If you have a boat and are interested in participating please contact me. Currently we will be departing from Ventura Harbor early Saturday morning and heading for Santa Rosa Island, about 50 miles distant. We will rendezvous at Eagle Rock anchorage on the southeast side of Santa Rosa in the late afternoon.

Another option for mariners is to leave from Santa Barbara, which brings you closer to that part of the islands by 10 miles.

It is my intention to explore, dive, hike, camp and basically enjoy the islands for a few days. The islands offer world class diving as well as amazing history, geology and bio-diversity both above and below water. There is enough to see to last a lifetime.

The Channel Islands are very remote and there are NO services available. Boaters need to bring ample fuel, water, food and supplies for the duration. Boats need to be in tiptop shape being well equipped with required gear including spare parts and adequate charts and navigation equipment.

If interested please contact me at 415-663-1962  
jdoss@marin.k12.ca.us

### Albion River Campout Report

By Dave and Irene Batt

I've always loved diving at Albion. With the ocean so flat I did not take the time to paddle up the river. Saturday I dove both points of the Albion harbor entrance. The south point at 60 feet had some house size boulders and plenty of rock fish but all the lings were small. Later, on the north point dive, I encountered steep walls and narrow canyons. Beautiful country ranging from 35 feet to 75 feet in only a few kicks. Again only small lings. Sunday took me down to Navarro River to paddle south hoping to meet up with an inflatable with Bob Olson and Paul Damgaard. Unfortunately we never

hooked up, but I managed to scrounge up a couple of abalone (9 15/16" and a 10.125") just south of the river. One of the 9 "abs actually produced a 10 inch fillet the meat was so big. (Dave)

This was the club's first campout at Albion. We had a great turn out of friendly new comers and some folks who made the new comers feel right at home. I for one welcomed some. But we missed those folks who did not show up. You know who you are. Please do not pass us by next time.

Did you know there was a restaurant only a stone's throw away where we camped? I was taught never to refuse an offer to not have to cook. We ate a home-style breakfast @ 6:00 A.M. and the cost was within our price range. I thought that was pretty cool. The campfire at night was awesome. I am not a diver so I cannot speak of the adventures many have experienced. (Irene)

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Here we are in October already, my the time flies by. The annual bash last month was a great success, although a bit small due to the heat. Several club members were there, and they got to enjoy the Albacore, Salmon, Halibut, Abalone and Oysters which we provided. The band was rockin and a good time was had by all. Hope to see you next year on August 28, 2004, for J&K's 20th anniversary party. As for diving, I only ended up in the water during the Albion campout, which was an awesome time, with superflat ocean conditions. The end of September brought the crush, with Merlot and Petit Syrah in the fermenters this year. Broke down and purchased my own crusher-destemmer, since some of the vineyards I visit were not providing this equipment, and those that did charged a rental fee. I also have a press, so if any aspiring home winemakers need to borrow my equipment I'm sure we can arrange something. See Ya!

## 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

Rich Gibson - President  
Paul Damgaard - Vice President  
Jeff Rothman - Secretary  
Bob Simpton - Treasurer  
Jed Douglas - Newsletter Editor

## RED Events Calendar 2003

### April - Abalone Season Opens

4/3 General Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table  
4/5 Salt Point/Kruse Ranch  
4/17 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe

### May

5/1 General Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table  
5/3 Pt Arena/Arena Rock - Marine Bio Dive  
5/15 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
Memorial Day Weekend - Charles' Big Weekend at Ocean Cove

### June

6/5 General Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table  
6/6-8 Russian Gulch Group Site  
6/19 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
6/28 Mike's Salmon Fishing Trip

### July

7/10 Finley Park Potluck! 6:00 PM  
7/11-13 Monterey Weekend  
7/24 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
7/27 Kari's Sunday Dive - Point Arena

### August

8/1-3 Doran Beach Halibut, Abalone & Salmon Campout  
8/7 General Meeting

8/21 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
8/23 Jed's Halibut Dive!

### September

9/4 General Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table  
9/5-7 Albion River Campground  
9/13 Kim & Jed's Annual Bash  
9/18 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe

### October

10/2 General Meeting 7 pm Round Table  
10/4 Halibut in Tomales!  
10/12-14 Peace lobster dive!  
10/16 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
10/18-20 Jock's Channel Islands Campout!

### November

11/6 General Meeting 7 pm Round Table  
11/8 Anchor Bay  
11/20 Business meeting - Redwood Cafe  
Scheduling next years calendar  
TBA Gary's Crab Dive!

### December

12/4 General Meeting 7 pm Round Table  
12/6 - Stillwater Cove  
12/13 Christmas Party! To be held at **Bob Simpton's Place**  
No business Meeting

Redwood Empire Divers  
PO Box 2971  
Petaluma, CA 94953

Stamp  
Here

## WANTED!

Looking for a small inflatable that can be carried on my sailboat (23') for shore excursions, think Sevylor or similar. Must be able to carry 2 people. Will also consider small dinghy that can be towed behind. Dinghy should not weigh over 100 lbs. Please email me if you have anything.  
Jeff dravnx@novato.net

## TO:

Check us out on the web!  
[redwoodempiredivers.com](http://redwoodempiredivers.com)