

# BOTTOM TIMES

Newsletter for the Redwood Empire Divers Scuba Club

March

2005

## March General Meeting

### GUEST SPEAKER

March 3rd at Round Table Pizzeria, 7:00 PM. A guest speaker from the Sonoma County Abalone Network is scheduled to speak to the club. We also will be discussing the upcoming Stillwater Cove Dive, officer elections and other exciting things.

## Saint Patrick's Day Party

March 19th

Beverlee has graciously offered the use of her home for the dive club's annual party in celebration of St. Paddy's day. The party starts around 5 and dinner should be served around 6.

9252 Piccadilly Circle, Windsor  
From Santa Rosa

1. Take 101 North to Central Windsor exit
2. Turn right on Redwood Hwy.
3. Turn left at 2nd light by fire station (Hembree Lane)
4. Turn right on Peppertree Drive
5. Turn Left onto St James Place
6. Turn Right on Piccadilly Circle
7. Go to 9252 Piccadilly Circle (on right side of street)

Look for a dive flag on the front lawn  
If there are any questions, or if you get lost  
call Beverlee at 707-843-6455

## March Dive

On March 5th, the club will be diving at Stillwater Cove, if it ever stops raining. Meet at the main parking lot at 8:00 am.

## OFFICER ELECTIONS

Elections are scheduled for the March meeting, and the new officers take office at the start of the fiscal year in April.

The following nominations have been made:

President - Dave Batt  
Vice President - Mike Mendoza  
Treasurer - Paul Damgaard  
Secretary - Keri Cline  
Editor - Steve Wheeler

Please join us at the meeting to vote for your favorite members.

**Dues are due by April.** The annual club dues are still only \$40, and cover the campouts, club functions and parties, and the newsletter mailing. Please renew early so we do not have to hound you.

### Lobster Boat Update

November 10, 11, & 12 (Thurs, Fri, & Sat.)  
Note that Friday the 11th is Veteran's Day  
Dive Boat Peace-Limited load (24 divers max)  
Price: \$385.00 Deposit: \$100  
Balance Due: June 1, 2005

**Only 5 spaces remaining-Contact Gary Now**

# Madeleine's Guns & Medicine



By: Madeleine Pelner Cosman, Ph.D., Esq.

Dear Dr. Madeleine:

This report from Iraq unites medicine and guns. I am a retired naval officer and chief of medicine. I do not know LCPL Schmidt or his mother Darlene who sent this to me by email. As one who has fought in combat, I know this rings true. It demonstrates the pernicious falseness of the NBC report of Kevin Sites, who as a reporter embedded with a division in Iraq, filmed a Marine "murdering" a wounded "insurgent" in Fallujah. Here is LCPL Schmidt's letter, unedited. It is consistent with the long, brutal tradition of Muslim terrorists in Israel faking injuries to attract doctors and crowds to then blow them up. Terrorists there also use Red Cross and UN ambulances to transport bombs and other terrorists. Anyone using a gun to defend himself and to defend others knows that the choice to shoot or not to shoot rarely is without anguish. No armed force can win a war if its fighters are subverted by questioners within who sabotage them in the press. To win a war, an armed force must be allowed to fight to win.

Answer: Thanks, Dr. Steve, for alerting me to this. I am grateful to pass along this powerful reminder of the heroism of our fighting forces in Iraq required to counter terrorism and its crafty deceptions in the battlefield, and to counter intentional misinterpretations of pacifist American reporters and editors for whom zealous self defense is no virtue and all war weapons are instruments of crime.

"This is one story of many that people normally don't hear, and one that everyone does.

**This is just one most don't hear:**

A young Marine and his cover man cautiously enter a room just recently filled with insurgents armed with AK-47's and RPG's. There are three dead, another wailing in pain. The insurgent can be heard saying, "Mister, mister! Diktoor, diktoor(doctor)!" He is badly wounded, lying in a pool of his own blood. The Marine and his cover man slowly walk toward the injured man, scanning to make sure no enemies come from behind. In a split second, the pressure in the room greatly exceeds that of the outside, and the concussion seems to be felt before the blast is heard. Marines outside rush to the room, and look in horror as the dust gradually settles. The result is a room filled with the barely recognizable remains of the deceased, caused by an insurgent setting off several pounds of explosives.

The Marines' remains are gathered by teary-eyed comrades, brothers in arms, and shipped home in a box. The families can only mourn over a casket and a picture of their loved one, a life cut short by someone who hid behind a white flag. But no one hears these stories, except those who have lived to carry remains of a friend, and the families who loved the dead. No one hears this, so no one cares.

**This is the story everyone hears:**

A young Marine and his fire team cautiously enter a room just recently filled with insurgents armed with AK-47's and RPG's. There are three dead, another wailing in pain. The insurgent can be heard saying, "Mister, mister! Diktoor, diktoor(doctor)!" He is badly wounded. Suddenly, he pulls from under his bloody clothes a grenade, without the pin. The explosion rocks the room, killing one Marine, wounding the others. The young Marine catches shrapnel in the face. The next day, same Marine, same type of situation, a different story. The young Marine and his cover man enter a room with two wounded insurgents. One lies on the floor in a puddle of blood, another against the wall. A reporter and his camera survey the wreckage inside, and in the background can be heard the voice of a Marine, "He's moving, he's moving!"

The pop of a rifle is heard and the insurgent against the wall is now dead.

Minutes, hours later, the scene is aired on national television, and the Marine is being held for committing a war crime. Unlawful killing.

And now, another Marine has the possibility of being burned at the stake for protecting the life of his brethren. His family now wrings their hands in grief, tears streaming down their faces. Brother, should I have been in your boots, I too would have done the same.

For those of you who don't know, we Marines, Band of Brothers, Jarheads, Leathernecks, etc., do not fight because we think it is right, or think it is wrong. We are here for the man to our left, and the man to our right. We choose to give our lives so that the man or woman next to us can go home and see their husbands, wives, children, friends, and families.

For those of you who sit on your couches in front of your television, and choose to condemn this man's actions, I have but one thing to say to you. Get out of your recliner, lace up your boots, pick up a rifle, leave your family behind, and join me. See what I've seen, walk where I have walked. To those of you who support us, my sincerest gratitude. You keep us alive.

I am a Marine currently doing his second tour in Iraq. These are my opinions and mine alone. They do not represent those of the Marine Corps or of the US military, or any other source. ♣

The Firing Line ♣ January 2005

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Footnote: The marine accused of the "crime" was acquitted last week, although the incident is reportedly still under investigation. The views expressed in this article are not necessarily supported by the members of the Redwood Empire Divers, and this article has been published at the discretion of the newsletter editor.

Special thanks to the California Rifle and Pistol Association for providing this information to the public.

## 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 2005

### January

1-6 General Meeting—Guest Speaker Eugene Border  
1-8 Pt Lobos Dive  
1-20 Business Meeting

### February

2-3 General Meeting  
2-5 Fort Ross Dive  
2-17 Business Meeting

### March

3-3 General Meeting  
3-5 Stillwater Dive  
3-17 Business Meeting  
3-19 St. Paddy's Party

### April

4-7 General Meeting  
4-9 Ocean Cove Ab Opening Dive  
4-21 Business Meeting

### May

5-5 General Meeting  
5-7 Arena Rock Dive  
5-19 Business Meeting

### June

6-2 General Meeting  
6-3 to 6-6 Mendocino Campout-Big River

6-16 Business Meeting

### July

7-7 General Meeting & Potluck at Finley Park  
7-8 to 7-10 Doran Beach Campout  
7-21 Business Meeting

### August

8-4 General Meeting  
8-5 to 8-7 Albion River Campout  
8-18 Business Meeting  
8-20 Jed's Salmon/Tuna Expedition

### September

9-8 General Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)  
9-9 to 9-11 Van Damme or Russian Gulch Campout  
9-17 Jock's Tomales Halibut  
9-22 Business Meeting

### October

10-6 General Meeting  
10-8 Tomales Halibut Dive  
10-20 Business Meeting

### November

11-3 General Meeting  
11-5 Anchor Bay Dive  
11-17 Business Meeting

### December

12-1 General Meeting  
12-3 Timber Cove Dive  
12-10 Christmas Party

Redwood Empire Divers  
PO Box 2971  
Petaluma, CA 94953

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## GUEST SPEAKER THIS MEETING

SCAN  
Sonoma County Abalone  
Network

TO:

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