

# creating the **FUTURE**



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## TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**Q:** Which Ocean REEF communication system does the Birch Aquarium at Scripps utilize?

The first five people to e-mail the correct answer to advertising@oceanreefgroup.com will receive a \$5 gift certificate to Starbucks! Please include your address.

Planning a trip?  
Consider diving beautiful Catalina Island ... **page 3**

## Exciting News

### Take an E-Dive before you dive!

Wouldn't it be great if you could explore your next dive site from home before you visit the site itself? Well ... you can! A new website called [Ediving.us](http://Ediving.us) gives you the freedom of exploring every nook and cranny in several popular dives.

A company called DiveNav, Inc., has developed a cutting edge web service that enables the user friendly exploration of our oceans. After registering with the site, one has access to a variety of virtual dives.

This diving simulator includes everything you need for a proper dive. With the click of your mouse or keypad, you can inflate/deflate your BC, swim freely to your desired location and depth, choose your preferred dive equipment, as well as monitor your air time, dive time, Submersible Pressure Gauge, BC indicator, or even turn on your dive light. If you choose, you can also let the compass guide you, follow an accurate topographic map, find and learn about points of interest such as wrecks, or even follow a great white to the open ocean.

California simulated dive sites include the Avalon Un-



HMCS Yukon San Diego, La Jolla Shores, and Bird Rock. By the end of the year, the website is expected to include all major California dive sites, and eventually several international dives.

DiveNav is constantly developing the site adding significant amounts of marine flora and fauna, including sharks, lobsters, eels, and top-side improvements such as landmarks and buildings. [Ediving.com](http://Ediving.com) is sponsored by several companies including OceanREEF and Sport Chalet. In fact, through the entire simulated dive, the diver is looking through our Neptune Space mask!



## Product Information

# The Dynamic Microphone

Although the GSMs Dynamic Microphone or “D-Mic” may seem like a tiny piece of the mask, it’s actually a fairly innovative and smart little piece of equipment.

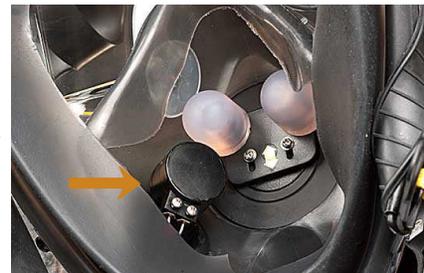
When speaking inside our Full Face Mask, a series of reflections and vibrations called “distorted frequencies,” are generated. The DSP microprocessor removes unnecessary “low frequency” noise such as air bubbles, or “high frequency” noise from mask vibrations, allowing dependable clear reproduction of the human voice. If they are not removed, these distorted frequencies will be amplified making audible comprehension very difficult.

The D-mic is encapsulated and protected by a hydrophobic membrane. This membrane allows air to pass through while protecting the microphone from water. To further limit any reduction in the quality of the vocal signal, the membranes thickness has recently been reduced. This membrane also reduces the “muffling” effect, allowing a very high phonic performance. Another characteristic of the hydrophobic membrane is its mechanical strength. The D-Mic is fitted with a membrane that is designed to handle pressure of more than 14.7 PSI.

Remember, the Neptune

masks are designed to operate under “balanced” pressure. If the mask is removed underwater the microphone will not suffer any damage. However, if you descend an additional atmosphere without the mask sealed on the face it will damage the microphone.

Don’t forget, rinse your communicator and microphone after each dive. Place it in a well ventilated area, away from direct sunlight.



## Technical Information:

### Changing Your GSM/M101A Battery

Here are a few tips to follow when changing the battery in a GSM or M101A unit that will prevent flooding:

#### 1. Lubricate the battery cap O-Ring

Applying a small amount of silicone-based lubricant to the O-ring ensures that the battery cap will fit properly into its housing. Once in place, check to see that the O-ring isn’t bulging out of the rim.

#### 2. Make sure the battery cap is positioned correctly

While not apparent at a casual glance, the battery cap has two unique ends: a rounded one and flat one with a small lip. The flat end must be lined up and placed over the rear

end of the battery compartment. While positioning the cap the opposite way may seem to work, it will not properly seal the battery compartment and it may flood.

#### 3. Close the unit, checking to see that no part of the O-ring is visible above the compartment opening

Holding the battery cap at the rounded end, take the battery cover with your other hand, line the rear screw in its slot and hold it in place. Slide your thumb off the battery cap while sliding the cover over it at the same time. Continue holding the cover down as you tighten the screws, being careful to not over tighten and damage the metal receptacles in the housing.



## Dive Sites

### Catalina Island

Diving in California isn't always considered easy diving. Visibility can often be less than ideal and sea life isn't always in abundance. However, Catalina Island, off the coast of California, is definitely an exception. Catalina is a spectacular example of California's unique and wonderful ecology, where the waters contain lush amounts of sea life, numerous wrecks and where visibility ranges anywhere from 40 - 100+ feet.

Towering kelp distinguishes Catalina diving. Huge columns of kelp grow from the ocean floor reaching to the surface. The resulting underwater atmosphere can be beautifully overwhelming. Sunlight filters through the water and then peers through the hypnotically waving kelp intermittently illuminating the sea floor.

Fish congregate around areas that provide shelter and protection from predators. As a result, the sunken vessels scattered around the perimeter of the dive park serve as

some of the best dive areas. Advanced divers can explore a small sailboat at approximately 65 feet in depth, a glass bottomed boat at approximately 85 feet and a kismet at approximately 65 feet.

Some of the most spectacular sites include Church Rock, off the island's southern tip includes kelp beds, underwater caves, and such ocean life as moray eels, octopi, Garibaldi, sheephead, calico bass, and lobsters. Goat Harbor, midway between Avalon and Two Harbors, is where one can see squid, white sea bass, yellowtail, angel sharks, bat rays, and harbor seals, an inshore reef, a kelp grotto, and an eastern wall that drops off suddenly to 100 feet. And finally Farnsworth Bank features a wealth of anemones, scallops, sea stars, and other beautiful invertebrates-as well as blue sharks, yellowtail, barracuda, sea bass, and other fish in deep water that can offer up to 100 feet of visibility. Catalina is definitely prime California diving.

## DID YOU KNOW? Underwater Cleanup

The Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup is an annual dive event held in Avalon Harbor at Catalina Island. The event takes place once a year on the Saturday following President's Day. The event was started in the 1970's by the local dive community in an effort to cleanup Avalon Harbor, and this event is the only time diving is permitted in this specific area. The event has grown over the years to become one of the most publicized and popular dive events in Southern California.

Besides offering divers the opportunity to dive in Avalon Harbor, the event brings together a large number of people who share common interests - diving and Catalina. Last year the event brought over 520 divers. There are numerous parties around town on both Friday and Saturday nights as divers revel in the warm friendly atmosphere of Catalina Island. Visit the website for more info;



## Bonus Feature Testimonial – Birch Aquarium at Scripps

"Ocean Reef's full-face masks and underwater communication systems are a key part of our four-times-weekly Kelp Tank Dive Shows here at the Birch Aquarium. They allow excellent communication between our divers and the viewing public.

With the Neptune masks and AlphaPro sound system, our divers have their hands free to feed the sharks, groupers and giant seabass, all while carrying on a lively dialogue with our visitors.

Our live feeding shows are among the most popular attractions here at the Birch Aquarium, and Ocean Reef has been a major factor in helping us maintain that level of commitment to educating AND entertaining our visitors. We couldn't do it without them!"

**Mark Ball - Lead Aquarist @ Birch Aquarium at Scripps**



## Upcoming Events

**Discovery Channel**  
Look for us on the  
Discovery Channel's Dirty  
Jobs throughout  
Shark Week and  
Shark Week re-runs

**Kelp Tank Show at the  
Stephen Birch Aquarium**  
Come see our very own Space  
Masks in action with our  
friends at Scripps Aquarium  
  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
starting at 12:30PM

**DEMA Show 2008**  
Las Vegas  
Convention Center  
Las Vegas, NV  
October 22-25  
[www.demashow.com](http://www.demashow.com)

Every Saturday at 2:00PM

*"Once a customer always a customer"* Ocean REEF considers all our customers part of the Ocean REEF family and we want to keep you posted on the latest news from our company by mailing or e-mailing you *Creating the Future*. To receive our newsletter, please mail us your name & address, or e-mail your information to [advertising@oceanreefgroup.com](mailto:advertising@oceanreefgroup.com).

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