

Overflow Crowd Helps Aquarium Celebrate 30 Years

By Lynne Gross

An appreciative group gathered at the end of the Manhattan Beach Pier on Friday evening, October 9, to help the Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium celebrate its 30th anniversary.

During a brief ceremony, Dick Fruin, current Board member and founding member of Oceanographic Teaching Stations (OTS), the organization that oversees the Aquarium, reminisced about the beginning days when volunteers had to scrape dead fish from the abandoned building that has become the Aquarium's home. He also joked with Manhattan Beach Mayor Portia Cohen about the \$1.00 a year the aquarium is to pay the city of Manhattan Beach for the facilities and "confessed" that the Aquarium has never paid. "I stand ready to write you a \$30 personal

check," Fruin told Cohen.

Both Cohen and Los Angeles County Field Deputy Steve Napolitano presented proclamations to OTS. Mary Morigaki, President of the Neptunian Club, made a \$400 donation on behalf of her organization. Fruin and Jill Brunkhardt from Chevron discussed that company's many years of support for the aquarium, including giving it temporary space while the Roundhouse underwent renovation.

Also in attendance were Manhattan Beach City Council members Richard Montgomery and Wayne Powell, Girl Scouts from troop 943 in La Crescenta who donated \$250 to the aquarium last year, and ex-employees Jose Bacallao and Vicki Wawerchak, who are now Senior Aquarist and Director of the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. •



The Aquarium's full-time staff members, Valerie Hill, Eric Martin, and Lauren Holman pose in front of the Hyperion Outfall Serenaders.



Chevron representative Jill Brunkhardt, Oceanographic Teaching Stations Board member and Founder Dick Fruin, and Aquarium Co-directors Valerie Hill and Eric Martin discuss the long-standing support Chevron has given the Aquarium.



Steve Napolitano, Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, presents a proclamation to Dick Fruin, one of the founders of Oceanographic Teaching Stations, the non-profit that oversees the Aquarium.



Manhattan Beach Mayor Portia Cohen makes a presentation to Aquarium Board member Dick Fruin as they joke about the dollar a year the aquarium is to pay the city for the use of the Roundhouse facility.



Aquarium Board President Matt Friedman chats with City Council member Wayne Powell.



Attendees at the Aquarium's 30th anniversary party wave as Board member Paul Blieden takes their picture. Many of the guests are enjoying food donated by Rock 'N Fish.



Terrill Burnett, Mary Morigaki, and Robin Kirk of the Neptunian Club flank sea life photos on display and for sale at the Aquarium anniversary party.