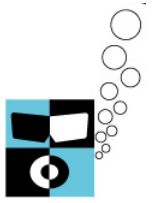




The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

July 2007

CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is going to be on 4 October at the Coast bar. Don't forget there is NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER! As we have the talk by Monty at the end of August.

XMAS BALL – 8 DECEMBER

A reminder – this is filling up fast – so if you want tickets please let us know as quickly as you can.

Another Busy Month - Many congratulations to all our students who passed courses with us in August.

Junior Open Water

Charles Cupples, Aaron Gough, Avirath Das

Open Water

Frances Casey, Damian Harrington, Laura New, Alan Emery, Lisa Smith, Kathryn Gough, Steve Fletcher, Martin Lewis, Ashley Redman, Bradley Redman, Carl Fuggle, David Meade, Julian Spickernell

Rescue

Steve Harder, Mark Edwards, Jason Webb, Jack Hewby, Neil Hewby, Owen Flowers

Nitrox

Stuart Jones, Simon Lamb, Craig Searle, Andrew Biggs

EFR

Rob Walker, Shirly Lamont, Marissa Sowerby, Charlotte Ray, Peter Osborn

EFR Instructor

Rob Walker, Neil Holden, Rob Walker, Andy Pithie, Jules Pike, Timmeeee Reedman, Ginger Phil

Assistant Instructor

Andy Pithie

OWSI

Rob Walker, Timmeeee Reedman, Julian Pike

Staff Instructor

Ian Brown, Neil Holden

BAHAMAS REPORT

Well where to start? I think the first thing to say is, the wreck was eventually sunk and it looks great. However, it was a bit traumatic at times. I was asked to go out to the Bahamas a few days before the rest of the crew (14 of us in total) to make sure everything was in order. This resulted in a hasty plan being hatched to get the last 2 days of the IDC finished with Dale at Fathom and Blues. On arrival I found out that nothing had been done to the boat so spent the best part of 3 days trying to get things sorted out. The crew for the Children's BBC, "Making of" programme and the actual LIFE programme arrived at 2.15 on the Tuesday They did not clear customs until 3 hours later – something to do with bringing 76 items of luggage!

The first 3 days of filming was all about the children's programme. The young lad snorkelled and saw the reef from one of Stuart Cove's SUBs. While this was going on the rest of the team got down and dirty cleaning the boat.

A new government in the Bahamas came into power in May this year and introduced a new environmental commission who did their

first inspection on the Thursday – the day before it was due to go down!



They came back to the cleanest boat I have ever seen the following day and we were then told that we had permission to sink the boat – but not to put it on the seabed! Guess they wanted it to hover above the sand or something.



The Red Tape was starting to fray nerves somewhat!!! Nothing happened over the weekend, except that we looked at a contingency plan to film on the Fort Nelson which was sunk in March this year. It was an interesting dive but too big and too deep to achieve what the beeb wanted.

The delay unfortunately meant that the childrens programme did not get to see the sinking, so we made a new ending to that series on the Saturday. On Monday we waited all day for the final signature from the Prime Minister, which arrived at 5.00 pm.

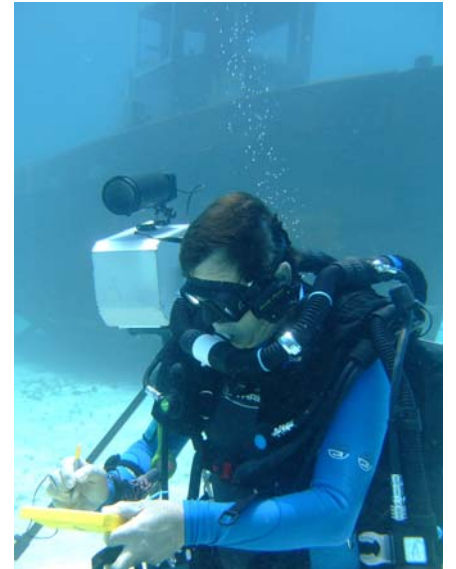


So Tuesday was the big sinking day. 4 days late the cranes arrived and after some sucking of teeth and phrases like "we will never lift dat in der mon" in it went – nearly taking one of the cranes with it. I boarded

along with one of Stuart Cove's staff and the tug came along side to tow us the 3 hours to site. The rope was frayed and worn and broke twice on route and we had to pump the stern section frantically on 2 occasions as it managed to spring some large leaks. When we arrived on site we moored it up and cut a hole in the side just above the water line. Then using a 4" pump and having got everyone off, we started to pump water into the boat. It didn't take long before it was time to jump off and let gravity take over.



The stern went first providing a wonderful shot of the bow going down. On board were 3 fixed cameras with another 3 below the surface capturing the action. The windows (put in at great expense), all shattered with the pressure as it eased itself to the bottom, upright and on the exact spot we had planned. The following 2 days were spent filming during the day and at night and using rebreathers meant that dive times were around 2 1/2 - 3 hours.



At the end of the day, it all worked out and some of the footage especially the night shoot was incredible. We renamed the tug Beurocracy because of the large hoops we had to jump through to get it down, but the end result looks fantastic. The crew will be returning in February next year to start taking more time-lapse photography and both the childrens programme and the LIFE series will be on air in late 2009. We have now been put forward as a BBC contractor so hopefully in the future there will be more work of this type in the pipeline.

IDC Report

At one stage we had 8 candidates, but this dropped for several reasons down to 5.

Then one of the candidates got hit by floods and lost their car down the Thames – and then there were 4. Still not to worry. There was plenty of frustration, some blatant blagging and rather too many views of Timmeeeee's bum during the 9 day programme. Eventually all 4 got to grips with the PADI system of teaching and did well in the IDC.



They all attained some excellent scores in the classroom, pool and open water assessment. Points of note – constant referral to Timmeeeee from Southpark, Rob giving an immaculate briefing, but failing to mention how we were going to actually do the skill and I have to mention the wind-up t-shirts worn by the candidates when they were at F&B to finish off the training due to my hasty departure to the Bahamas! Ha bloody ha!



Anyway the culmination of the IDC leads me nicely on to

OUR NEW INSTRUCTORS!



Many congratulations from all of us to Jules Pike, Rob Walker and Timmeeeeeeeee on passing their IE. (Andy is planning to take it later on just so you know). They will be joining our team of instructors so you will be seeing them working in the dive centre in the future. Well done guys.

.... AND NOT FORGETTING .. NEW STAFF INSTRUCTORS

Also well done Ian and Neil on passing their SI course. They will be helping out on IDCs in the future.

CHILDREN'S BBC SHOOT IN BATH

We did the initial shoot for the Childrens BBC programme "Inside Life" in a pool in Bath at the beginning of August. A series of shoots

showing him helping out with cameras and diving equipment paved the way for the "big moment" when I swam to the camera and showed James (veiwing a monitor on the surface) a piece of paper with the words – "Well done, now you are going to do it for real, you are coming to the Bahamas!". Not a bad surprise eh?



HOLIDAYS 2008

You certainly seem to like the holidays we have planned for next year. We have already filled the liveboard in Egypt, but if you wanted to go, do not despair, as we have provisionally booked a second one. To be fair to everyone who has put their names down we need to have deposits in as soon as possible. If you delay then you could lose your place as the second boat is also filling up rather rapidly. Please let us have a deposit of £200 payable to "Tony Backhurst" if you want to go. It is first come first served and we need deposits to secure a place. To remind you of the details

Dates 10 – 17 May 2008

Boat - Whirlwind and one other boat hopefully

Cost - £895 includes all soft drinks, diving, flights and transfers

Numbers – 20 per boat

Galapagos

This is also starting to fill up and I now have a few more details:

Itinerary

Saturday 13 September : International flight to Quito. Overnight in Café Cultura (www.cafecultura.com)

Sunday: Flight Quito / Baltra. Hotel check in. (the afternoon is a good opportunity to visit the Charles Darwin Foundation which is next door to the hotel. Accommodation in the Red Mangrove Inn.



Red Mangrove Inn

Dive Programme

Monday: Seymour, 2 dives

Tuesday: Beagle, 2 dives

Wednesday: Daphne / Mosquera, 2 dives

Thursday: Cousins, 2 dives

Friday: Gordon, 2 dives

Saturday: Santa Fe, 2 dives

Sunday: Floreana, 2 dives

Monday: Pinzon / Guy Fawkes, 2 dives

Tuesday: Gordon, 2 dives

Wednesday: Day for land tours

Thursday: Day for land tours

Friday: hotel checkout. Flight Baltra / Quito.

Overnight in Quito.

Saturday: International flight to UK

Cost – We are still waiting for the international flight prices but the estimate is

ONLY £1995 for 13 days/12 nights in Galapagos, 2 nights in Quito and 18 dives. Breakfast and lunch are included. Extra costs are \$100 park fees payable on arrival. I will need a deposit of £600 to cover flights as these have to be paid for in full in advance. Maximum number for this trip is going to be 20.

Our Opinion - We reckon this is extremely good value and a superb package to what is one of the ultimate dive destinations in the World.

DAHAB TRIP 18 – 25 NOVEMBER 2007

36 names confirmed for this trip with deposits paid. Details of the flights are:

18 November - Depart Gatwick 09.00 hrs. Arrive Sharm 16.10 hrs.

24 November – Depart Sharm 17.10 hrs. Arrive Gatwick 20.45 hrs. (Very civilized). I

have put in the bids for accommodation. Please note that we will need the remaining payment by 7 September and a letter will be out next week with details and remaining payments. We have to pay for the flights and accommodation in advance so please let us have cheques or cash promptly please. Admin instruction will follow as usual.

HANNAH GETS DUCK TAPED!

(.. and she got some really good grades)



Right, just in case you haven't heard, our Saturday girl Hannah did really well in our GCSEs gaining 3 x A*, 2 x A, and 6 x B grades. We think she did very well and want to congratulate her. The chances are you have already heard about it, because she never stops talking about it, hence the duck tape!!

NEW EFR INSTRUCTORS



Well done to our 6 new EFR Instructors

MORE GUNWHARF TRYDIVES

We put the pool up again over August Bank holiday and ran try dives. Many thanks to everyone who helped out run the pool, in particular, Andi, Donk, Tina, Jules, Ian and Hannah.

Coming up Next month:

Belize Report – We let you have all the details from the big trip of the year.

Monty Halls Presentation – We tell you all about it

better training ... better equipment ... better value ... more fun!