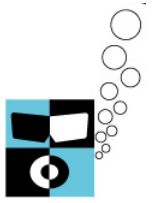




The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

July 2007

CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is on 2 August at the Coast bar. It is going to be a BBQ so make sure you let us know if you are coming. The next meeting after that will be the Monty Halls presentation on 30 August (so no meeting in first week of September). This is a ticket only meeting it costs £5 and all this will go to charity. Guests tickets are £10, half of which goes to charity and the rest to cover the meal. We need to know in advance if you want to come and it is filling up quickly.

A busy month again ... Many congratulations to all our successful students.

Scuba Diver

Lucia Naudu

Open Water

Ian Augustus, Lester Anderson, Shane Freemantle, Elaine Abbot, Sophie Hamilton, Amanda Ross, Simonne Harris, Toby Adams, Charlotte Teague, Liza Underwood, David Morgan, Michael Cooper, Steve Rowbotham, Dan Beagley

Advanced Open Water

Hannah Robertson, Peter Hewett, George Oliver, Fiona Snowdon, Phil Jarvie, Kerry Jarvie, Kevin Payne, Mike Barber, Owen Flowers, Kate Dixon-Payne

Rescue

Adam Robinson, Dave Rous, Nigel Clay

Nitrox

Neil Hewby, Jack Hewby, Steve Youell

Divemaster

Andy Pithie, Robin Walker

MSDT

Wyndham Lucas, Paul Kimbley

EFR

Steve Harder, Jodie Ferguson, Neil Hewby, Jack Hewby, Noel Short

SUMMER BALL REPORT



We knew it was going to be good – we just didn't know how good. It was a full house with 130 club members and guests turning up in their finest. It was a familiar format dinner with a jazz band followed by copious amounts of hooch and some outrageous behaviour on the dance floor. This included Graham who was seen to take part in the "haaaay macarena" (you know the irritating song where people get in a line and do various hand movements) oh nooooo, Graham what were you thinking? Proof is in the photographs Graham



.... and just for a change the mystery lady was there up to her usual antics



We invited Oceanic to the party and the 2 MDs came along with their significant others. The raffle raised over £500 (the main prize of a Fuji Finepix camera was won by Donny – well done you) and many many thanks for all of your support with that. You will be glad to know that I have posted all the images onto the gallery so you can find out what you got up to just in case you can't remember. All in all it was yet another another fantastic club event. While on the subject of Balls you need to know about the Christmas Ball. Yes I, know it is only just summer, but there are already over 90 people booked for this so if you want to go get your names down as soon as you can.

NEW DIVEMASTERS

Many congratulations to our 2 newly qualified DMs, Andy Pithie and Robin Walker. They have worked hard to get this far, but the work doesn't stop there as they have both signed up for the IDC next month.

CLUB TRIP TO DARTMOUTH

The weather forecast did not look good for the Dartmouth weekend at the end of June and unfortunately it proved to be the case. We all arrived on the Friday evening (some earlier than others) in the hope that the forecasters had got it wrong. By the time the main body arrived in Dartmouth, the advance party (Tim, Neil, Jules and Neil without wellies) was well on the way to emptying the barrels of the 7 Stars Pub. A few pints and a good curry later it was an early night in preparation for the next day. We boarded Samuel Irvin 3 which I have to say is a very spanky new boat. It has a lift, twin hulls, twin engines, shelter Infact it is a superb dive boat.

The first problem was that someone had forgotten to explain the dress code to Neil Holden and he wore his ... wellies. Yes he is wearing blue neoprene wellies. Crikey mate

– we know you are in the Navy but there is no excuse for that sort of behaviour. Next you will be dancing to the macarana!



We had hoped to do the Lord Stuart and the Bretagne wrecks on the Saturday. We got onto the Lord Stuart, but the weather started to pick up on the way. By the time we got there the fish feeding had become a frenzy, with several of the land lubbers succumbing to the sickness of the sea.



I have to confess to being slightly evil and capturing at least 2 of the events on video, but I decided that it would not be fair to embarrass them by sticking them on the website so they are on the newsletter instead!



Tim dropped his pants far to readily in my opinion on a boat predominantly full of men, but then perhaps he was trying to tell us something. The Lord Stuart was a big wreck but pretty dark and forboding for some of the team, so dive times were not too long. However the 3 CCR guys had a great time and after 50 minutes surfaced with a grin. We pulled in for a tank fill and then thought about dive number 2. The wind had picked up again and the words discretion and valour were springing to mind. So, to save the stomachs of the many, the few gave way to doing a nice gentle drift in a sheltered bay in order to gather the skippers starter for dinner of scallops and whelks.

The journey into the wind on the way back was Well Interesting to say the least! – hey but look at it this way, you would have had to queue for 45 minutes for a ride like that at Alton Towers!



The evening involved an excellent Thai restaurant and some local ale houses. The following morning, some of the group decided to miss the ride from hell and head off for a pub somewhere, the rest of us poked our bow out of the harbour entrance before realizing that it was not going to be a whole lot of fun So we then did the same. So a bit disappointing in a way with only one day of diving being done, but that's the name of the game. It was still another great trip and we will be back next year.

SMB WORKSHOP – 14 JULY



7 club members took the opportunity to refresh some skills and even learn some new ones on our first SMB workshop of the year. The workshops are free to club members and allow them to be instructed in this fundamental but simple skill without having to pay for an expensive course. If any other club members would like to join the next course let us know at the dive centre.

BBC CAMERA CHECKS



Cameran Mike Pitts checks the buoyancy of the "mother of all cameras"

When the vehicle arrived with 5 containers we all naturally assumed they were checking out all of the cameras we would be taking to the Bahamas! Actually we were wrong - this was the storage for one of the latest HD units. It took about 45 minutes to put the whole thing together and then we had to create a vacuum in the housing which showed whether it was watertight by using an altimeter of all things. Well, with a value of just shy of £100K it would not be good to get

a leak! Even in the "cloudy" water of Eastney it achieved some amazing results. Next stop Nassau.....

HOLIDAYS 2008

We have already started the planning for holidays next year – we thought about going back to the Philippines, but we have done that one twice so how about this for a plan:

EGYPT LIVEABOARD THE "WRECK FEST" 17 – 24 May 2008

We have booked a week on a liveaboard in the Red Sea. The boat is Whirlwind (sister ship of Hurricane) which you can read about in the August edition of "DIVE" magazine. The cost is going to be £895, which includes flights transfers, diving, food and soft drinks.



This is a huge luxury boat with nitrox on board and there are 20 spaces available. The itinerary is going to be a complete "wreck fest" going to the wrecks of Abu Nuhas, Thistlegorm, Rosalie Muller, Dunraven and more. To secure a space on this trip we need a deposit of £200. First come first served so book early to avoid disappointment.

BAHAMAS "SHARK FEST" 19 – 26 July 2008

Well having made so many contacts it would be rude not to. We will be going to the Bahamas in July to do some serious diving with sharks with Stuart Cove dive centre.



The trip will be for 7 days and we are **guaranteed** to dive with sharks – there are hundreds of them. The diving will include a shark "feed" as well as some exciting dives on the James Bond Film sets and many other fantastic wrecks and reefs. The cost of this trip will be around £995 including diving and self-catering accommodation.

GALAPAGOS "THE BIG ONE" September/October 2008 (dates tbc)

For our big trip of the year we will be going to Galapagos. This has to be the ultimate dive and wildlife destination. Not only that but it will be the middle of the Whale shark season!!!! And a great opportunity to see shoaling hammerheads! The holiday will be shore based (so an opportunity for non-divers as well). We will spend a night in Quito on the way and then onwards to Galapagos. The trip should include 23 dives and some land tours around the islands over 11 days (with more available if you want

them) and plenty of opportunities to explore these fascinating islands.



The cost is going to be just under £2000, which is amazing for a Galapagos trip. If you are interested in joining this trip of a lifetime let me know and we will give you more details as we start to firm things up.

DAHAB TRIP 18 – 25 NOVEMBER 2007

Back to holidays for this year at the moment I have **34 names confirmed** for this trip with deposits paid. We have already started booking the accommodation and those who are going have been sent a letter outlining the various choices. Please get the return back to us as soon as possible. Accommodation will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you have not got your names down for this trip and would like to go, please let me know. Its going to be a good one.

HAIR DYE OR THE SUN?

As I get slightly longer in the teeth the thought of the odd bit of hair dye has crossed my mind on more than one occasion I have to be honest. I am happy to admit that advancing years brings out the grey (distinguished) flashes to the side burns. However, recently we found out that the sun can turn your hair ginger! This remarkable claim was made by one of our newly qualified DMs and we have to say was news to us. But it doesn't stop there. The enterprising big girly bottom kisser from Chichester who made this claim (he of the arse baring episode in Dartmouth) decided to dye his hair before this could happen. The end result - yellow **and ginger** hair.



Come on Tim, admit it, you're covering up the grey bits! The top shot of the head proves the ginga theory!

Coming up Next month:

More work with the BBC – we get involved in Childrens BBC programme "Inside Life" with a pool shoot in Bath as well as some open water filming in the Bahamas

Report from the Bahamas - Its time to sink the wreck and start filming some wildlife. We will have a full report and pictures from the filming of the second series of the new BBC "LIFE" production.

Instructor Development Course Report – We have 5 candidates taking the plunge next month and going through the IDC. We will let you know how they get on..

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