

Social Events

CLUB MEETINGS

SUMMER IS HERE – TIME FOR A BBQ!

A bit of a late newsletter so we have already had the July club meeting – sorry about that. The June club meeting was good and a welcome return of cow and mash along with a good number (around 50) coming along for the social. The July meeting was a BBQ and the warm weather made it a cracker. The next “normal” club meeting will be in the Coast Bar of the Royal Beach Hotel on Thursday 3rd September. Please let us know if you are coming and bring enough cash to cover any guests you bring along.

Summer Ball

GET YOUR TICKETS – TIME IS RUNNING OUT

ABC, CBA? Well, as we used to say when I was in the Army, All Bloody Change, Change Back Again. You may be aware that we have had a few problems getting the menu choice sorted for the ball and the Queens Hotel changing the goal posts. However, after some discussions with the hotel I am pleased to say that we are now back on track. So, the Ball is still being held in the **Queens Hotel on 15 August**.



It's going to be a good one and tickets are going fast – **the last date to buy tickets is 27 July, there will be no exceptions** so if you want to go, please let us have payment soon. It promises to be a fun evening and along with the normal disco we are also going to have a few other

attractions on the evening, which we know you will enjoy. Ticket prices have gone up slightly for non-club members at £39 a ticket (an increase of £4), but club members price is still £15. Don't forget this ticket price includes the 3 course meal, coffee and free wine on the tables during dinner, as well as a late bar and disco until 1.00 am.

The menu choice for the night is going to be:

STARTERS

Minted Melon Salad

or

Smoked Salmon with Citrus and Caper Mango Dressing

or

Chicken Liver Pate served with Red Onion Marmalade and Rustic Baguette

MAINS

Chargrilled Chicken Breast with Mediterranean Style Roasted Tomato Sauce

or

Seared Pork Loin Steak with an Apple and Calvados Sauce

or

Fillet of Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce

PUDDING

Warm Pear and Almond Tart with fresh pouring cream

or

Cheese and Biscuits with Green Grape Chutney

or

Chocolate Fudge Cake and Cream

Club News

CLUB WEEKEND IN PORTLAND 18/19 July



We are having another club weekend on 18/19 July. We had planned to go further a field but as the new boat is not going to be ready in time then the plan is to just go down to Portland and

do some good diving, have a BBQ in the evening and generally have a good couple of days away. Diving on offer will be a Deep dive in the morning (Benny or Aolian Sky) and 2 harbour or inshore dives in the afternoon. Accommodation is available in the bunk house (or you can book your own) and if there is interest we can have a BBQ on the Saturday evening. If you want to come along let us know.

THE NEW BOAT ON THE BLOCK



John standing at the back of the boat – it's big!

This news item is a bit special. There is going to be a new RIB operating in the Solent. It is bigger, faster and better than any other dive boat around here ... and the really good news is that it's ours. Triton (our 7.5m Cobra RIB) is working well down in Portland running courses and club trips, but as the club continues to grow we felt it was time to start offering some dive charters in the Solent area. So, say hello to “Renegade”



Renegade takes to the air

She is a 9m offshore Ribcraft, which means she can cope with just about any sea state. She can comfortably take 10 divers and 2 crew and her 3m beam means that you are not climbing all over each other trying to get your gear. She has **twin 200hp** engines capable of pushing her to a top speed of just over 50 knots – don't worry, you won't be going that fast (unless you

ask), but we will get you to the dive site quicker than any other dive boat in the area. She is also sponsored by Raymarine so has the very latest electronic gadgets and devices - it even has an auto pilot!

Those of you who have been in the club for a few years may well remember diving from this monster RIB a few years ago, when we chartered it from my old friend Dave Welch.



Diving from renegade a few years ago

Well now you can dive from it again. For the last couple of years the boat has been used for passenger charter and we are currently in the process of converting her so that we can switch between passenger charter and dive boat quickly and easily when we want. We expect this to take a month, or so and in the meantime we are going out finding wrecks, training skippers, looking for new dive sites and putting together a programme of dives in the evening and at weekends.



Once we are up and running you will find plenty of advantages with diving from her. As she can get to the dive sites quickly you will spend less time travelling and more time diving. Neither is it going to cost you an arm and a leg to go diving - depending on distance, dives are going to cost between about £25 and £35, and club members will be eligible for a 10% discount on all dives. Another advantage is that the boat will depart from Camber dock, so there is plenty of parking and easy access. Not only that but we hope to announce that we have secured an **affiliate membership with Portsmouth Sailing Club** who have a club house 100m from the dock. This will mean that club members can get changed and showered after the dive, use the

club facilities and even go for a beer at the club bar (around £1.60 a pint!)



coming by at 30 knots and then some

We are very excited about Renegade and think that this boat is going to be a fantastic asset to the club members as well as the diving community in the area and further a field. Diving in the Solent that will be value for money, fast and convenient. We will let you have details of the dive programme in due course so keep your diaries clear from around the end of July early August.

Training News

RYA POWERBOAT TRAINING



Argo, our single engined trainer

With the acquisition of our latest boat we thought it was about time we shook up our RYA Training. The RYA training has been undertaken successfully for several years now under the Triton Scuba banner. However, as we continue to grow we realised it was time to move on and we have now decided to join forces with John Marchant to set up Solent Maritime.



The new company can offer a full range of powerboat courses up to Advanced level, as well as shore

based courses, such as Marine and Coastguard Agency approved first aid courses, VHF Radio courses and engine maintenance training.



Utilising our twin and single engined boats we will be able to offer Advanced RYA Powerboat courses in the near future.

As well as RYA powerboat training the company will also be offering the 3 RIBs that we jointly own for charter – so if you fancy taking a group on high speed a thrash around the Solent, this might be just the ticket. For example you may want to hire one for Cowes Week fireworks. We have produced a small website which has all the details so why not take a look at our new website www.solentmaritime.com Power boating is huge fun so if you are interested in having a go at favourable club member rates, why not give us a call.

Kit News

DRYSUIT OFFER – EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST



Last month we mentioned the Typhoon drysuit deal. Just to let you know this offer has been extended until the end of August. So, if you are looking for a new drysuit, we can offer you any of the Typhoon range at a 20% discount and we will give you a free undersuit worth £100. Suits are in stock to try on.

CRACKING DEAL ON FUJI FINEPIX F200 CAMERA

The current retail price on the Fuji F200 camera with housing, carry case and 4 Gb memory card should be £430. For some reason, Fuji are giving a £50 cashback deal – which goes directly to the customer. So basically, if you work from the discounted price we are already offering, you can now get hold of one

The best dive club and the best diver training in Portsmouth

from now until the end of July for £330.
If you want one **now** is a **good** time

Trip Reports

“PUTTING OUR TRAINING TO GOOD USE”

A TRIP REPORT FROM DAF AND BEV
(THEY HAVE BEEN EVERYWHERE!)

Hello all at Triton,
While we've been travelling we've been entertained on a monthly basis by the Triton News email that's popped into our email box. Reading this month about the Ginger Dugong prompted me to write this, (since we are hoping to spot a dugong while we're in Vanuatu) just to let you know how our Triton training is being put to good use.



We did our Open Water at a cold, and murky, Vobster Quay in Sept 08 and many thanks must go to Jules for his patience and excellent teaching during the course. And Mrs Jules' ginger cake as well. The highlight of the underwater world on the 6m platform at Vobster was the sight of a single trout circling the platform. Luckily we've seen quite a lot more since then.



Our first dive stop was in New Zealand at a small town called Tutukaka. This is the base for dives at the Poor Knights Islands. We dived with a company called Dive Tutukaka, who were a bit pricey, but EXTREMELY reassuring and professional and just what this pair of novices needed. Poor Knights was incredible 40m+ visibility, teeming with life, a world class site. At least we assume it was. We don't really remember much about the site and the dives, apart from our

buoyancy being all over the shop. We seemed to be either ascending or descending in a semi-controlled manner, and used up our air in a fraction of the time that more experienced divers were doing. I'm sure it tells you somewhere in the PADI handbook not to hyperventilate, but I think I must have forgotten (or skimmed) that bit. Someone else on the dive boat sent us some pictures so we have some idea what it was like! Ah well, one day we'll go back and do it again and hopefully won't oscillate so madly.

Our next diving stop was in Koh Mak in Thailand. The diving here was perfect for novices but perhaps a bit boring for you experienced guys. The sites were small, all around 14m and shallower, and had no other divers in the water. And it was our first experience of diving in warm water in shorty wetsuits - that's nice!!



the local dive boat

Water temperatures were about 27C, vis about 15m and the corals and sponges were very impressive. Better than Vobster at 12C. Bev found her descents were slightly uncontrolled as she plummeted from about 12m onto a poor unsuspecting spiny sea urchin going about its daily business. Bev ended up with about 8 spines embedded in her knee but the urchin was less fortunate.

Next dive stop was in Vietnam. The main spot for Vietnamese diving is the city of Nha Trang. There are a lot of operators here, mainly PADI registered, and competition for punters is fierce. Prices are really low with two dives, including full gear hire, at about \$35US.



(Daf and Bev in Vietnam – not Vobster!)

Unfortunately Bev had a stinker of a cold so we couldn't take advantage but

we did get some diving in Phu Quoc. Phu Quoc is an emerging dive location for Vietnam. Its a large jungle-covered island very close to the Vietnam-Cambodia border. The proximity of the border means that a lot of the island, and some of its best beaches, are military bases and off limits to civilians but much of the archipelago is open to dive boats. We did another four dives here and by now we were both feeling much more in control in the water and really enjoying ourselves. Water temperatures were about 27C and vis about 7-8m. Again the corals were spectacular. There weren't many fish around despite being nominally a marine park we were told that if anything large swam through it would be caught and eaten.



We had the sites to ourselves, and were also the only customers on the dive boat a 30m long vessel with 5 crew. One of the crew was also a cook and prepared the best lunch we've had so far on a dive boat. Chilli crusted fish, chicken noodles, poached pork and vegetables, and fried rice.



Bev in Vanuatu

We are currently on our fourth dive stop, this time in Vanuatu, and hence hoping for our dugong sighting. We are not on the island of Santo where the famous SS Coolidge and Million Dollar Point dive sites are, but on the island of Efate. Now that we are in full control of our faculties in the water(!) we're REALLY enjoying the diving.

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We're diving with a company on an island called Hideaway (check out their website www.hideaway.com.vu) and having a great time. The water is warm, 27C, and vis is 20m+. There's a real range of sites within 5-20 mins of the beach reefs, wrecks, 100m drop offs; and loads of sea life. Highlights have been seeing a turtle (the first one we've seen that's not stuffed or in a tank) and our first sightings of sharks, Clown Fish and Lion Fish. We also dived our first wreck a 20m coastal trader which was cleaned up and deliberately sunk and that was really exciting. There were some really large Batfish, Banded Pipefish (which are like elongated seahorses), and loads of sea cucumbers if organisms that look like large speckled sausages are your thing! Near the wreck was also a large colony of Clown Fish around 50 or 60 of them living in some large anemones.



Daf

From here we head on to Fiji, then Hawaii, and then home. It's a tough life isn't it? I'm not sure that the idea of 5m vis in Portland sounds quite so appealing but I guess we'll need to try it when we get back. Anyway sorry this has been such a long message but big thanks again to you guys, and especially Jules, for making it possible for us to see all this.

Cheers
Daf and Bev

Course Success

NEW PADI INSTRUCTORS



no not him, silly ...

I was in Egypt in July running an IDC in Dahab. There were 8 candidates on the programme, which as well as our own guys included a few "Gap Year

Diver's" candidates. The course was great fun but there were one or two "special" moments that I just wanted to share with you – because I told all the candidates I would!



Simon, who will be joining the team and teaching here soon, was brilliant – just don't ask him to be an unconscious diver on the surface – he can't stop moving! Malcolm clearly didn't realize that the definition of the word "brief" was something to do with "short" or "not too long" and young Chris Evans (non-ginger variety), who developed so many hand signals that I felt I had learnt a whole new language. Big Gazza struggled at first but soon realised that the whole thing was a "system" and so he systematically set about learning it. He had one particularly gleaming moment in a rescue scenario when he encouraged the panicking diver on the surface to "inflate his weightbelt and drop his BCD" I look forward to seeing that one demonstrated on his first Rescue Course. Darren is never going to win a Nobel prize for fizzix, but credit where its due, he worked hard to get through that one. Chris, (AKA Bowline Baker) earned his nickname – because he could tie a bowline – infact he couldn't tie knots full stop! and strangely enough Rob "the mankini" got his for wearing one. And finally Harry, who became the youngest ever PADI instructor – aged 12.



It was great fun and was nice for a change to be running the course in some warm water. As on all IDCs there were frustrations, smiles and a lot of satisfaction. After the IDC the candidates had the 2 day instructors exam where all the candidates achieved some excellent results.

The IE party was held at the Furry Cup (yes that is the name of the bar!) in the Blue Beach Hotel and even the

mankini made an appearance (it is just wrong) as you can see!!!!



Chris the manager laid on a fantastic BBQ and Matt, my friend and Staff Instructor for the two weeks, fell asleep on the beach in a bit of a stupor. It would have been a fitting way to end the training, but the next day it was up and at 'em again as 6 of the newly qualified instructors attended an MSDT prep course (speciality instructor training) and qualified in 5 additional specialities. Hard work, but great fun and very rewarding.

If you think that you might want to "Go Pro" and teach diving why not give me a call. Our next IDC is in September and there are still places available.

MORE SUCCESS

Many congratulations to everyone who completed some training with us during the last month, including this months featured course ... Rescue Diver:



COMING UP IN NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER ...

RENEGADE UPDATE – We will update you on progress of the conversion.

DAF and BEV'S TRAVELS – We will hopefully have the next instalment as they travel to Hawaii and Fiji Not that I am the slightest bit jealous!

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