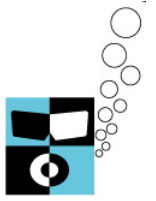




# The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

June 2007

## CLUB MEETING DATES

Ok everyone, there are a couple of odd dates coming up for club meetings. There was no meeting at the beginning of July as we have the club Summer Ball on 14 July. The next club meeting after that will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August in the Coast Bar. The next meeting after that will be on Thursday 30 August. This is a special meeting that will be held in the Invincible Suite of the Royal Beach and will include a presentation by Monty Halls (more on that later in this letter). And in case you want to look that far ahead in your diaries, this means that there will not be a meeting first week in September. A bit confusing, but if you are not clear give us a call. Back to reality, the last meeting was another full one. The weather held out for the first barbeque of the season and the raffle raised well over £100. Good to see you all there.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING RIB DIVES

There is now a programme of Wednesday evening dives on Jed Keemar's RIB for anyone who wants one. They are leaving around 6.00 pm from the Eastney Cruising Association opposite Southsea Marina. If you want to book a dive give us a call in the centre – cost is £25.

## ANOTHER GOOD MONTH OF TRAINING SUCCESSES AT THE PREMIER DIVE CENTRE IN THE SOUTH

### Open Water Referral

Annette Stock, Stephanie Testut, Tom Wilde

### Open Water

Kathryn Stuart, Roger List, Leonard Tharme, Martin Groves, Mark Mouatt, Eleanor Carr, John Palfreyman, Matthew Palfreyman, Lee Hammond, Philip Sands

### Advanced Open Water

Nicholas Pyle, Matt Smith, Nigel Gower, Angus Wood, Julie Dickson, Richard Hill, Maz Redman,

### Rescue

Robin Walker, Philip Duncalfe

### Nitrox

Pete Hulme

### Divemaster

Tim Reedman

### MSDT

Ian Brown

### Gas Blender

Ian Brown, Luke Sibley, Jayne Parker, Tim Reedman, Neil Holden

### EFR

David Cotton, Ann Delahaye, Linda Childs, Gilliam Murray, Sabine Behrens, Sonia Jarvis, Brian Shimell, Kay Ramsay, Sally May, Susan Feltham, Shane Lawrence

### RYA VHF Radio

Emma May, Zoe Wright, Liz Clarke, Steve Moody, Tom Clarkson

## THE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL WAS FANTASTIC!

It was a bit of a long shot – putting a pool into Gunwharf and running try dives .... But it worked. The pool went up on the Tuesday and just squeezed into the marquee. Our

friends at the Fire Service came and filled it (and emptied it at the end) – many thanks again guys. The first weekend had a bit of everything! A lot of sun – and unfortunately a bit of rain. However, this did not seem to dampen spirits as the festival got underway.



We managed about 35 try dives on the first day, which was not bad considering that a few heater problems meant that the water in the lock next door was actually warmer than the pool. Several Club members came down to Gunwharf to dive the lock or help out with try dives. Our friends at the RNLI were doing some demos in the harbour, showing man overboard drills and other skills. So while they were there they joined us for a dip in the pool.



During the week we had a few staff running the pool and answering the constant stream of enquiries about training and the dive club. We also had some visits from schools which was good fun as they also jumped in. Other things that happened .... we were interviewed live on 3 local radio stations including Ocean FM. It was a great opportunity to do some blatant plugging about being the premier dive centre on the South Coast, never mind Portsmouth.



There were plenty of waterfights, and some good natured "loud music" competitions with the bands next door and Ian Rose's awful singing. We also "teamed up" with the Blue Reef Aquarium next to us and recovered a

spider crab (later released of course) for their display on the Sunday. The second weekend was a bit wetter to say the least. It was the chance to dive some of the old gear (more later) and for even more club members to jump in to dive the lock. The weather didn't matter as loads of kids took advantage of the opportunity to do a try dive. It was not only kids .... the youngest trydiver was 8 and the oldest was 74. Well done to that lady for having a go. There were some other memorable moments .... Ruth gave a demo of how not to get up with a twin set on your back (still working out how to publish the video on You Tube but see picture below), Phil Smith managed to pull his DSMB totally under the water (time for an SMB workshop methinks) and Gavin admirably showing the crowds the value of undertaking the PPB course!!



The whole waterfront festival was a great success for Triton with the dive club yet again putting on a professional show and having fun at the same time. It is important that I also thank all the willing volunteers who gave up their free time to help out make it such a success and such fun. Especially Jules, Mandy, Donk, Tina, Ian, Cam, Rosey, Lorna, Melons, Ruth, Andy, Sarah, Brenda, Nigel, Andrea, Ken, Gavin .... and anyone else that I might have left out (please dont be offended). Couldn't have done it without you so many many thanks. Oh yes, and not forgetting Tim Reedman who I left out of the Blog post. Sorry Tim. As requested to make it up to you I have published your photo – the one below was from the Dartmouth trip. Lush!



## SCUBAPRO SUMMER DEAL

There are some great Scubapro offers out at the moment. A T-Black package, which includes the T-Black BCD, Mk25 S600, AAS, twin gauge and dive bag all for £899. BUT, for club members there is an additional 10% discount. This is a saving of over £200!! There are several other deals from as low as £450 for reg set, BCD, and dive bag, so pop

into the dive centre to find out more. Orders only and a deposit will be required. Closing date for this special deal is 31 August.

### THE OLD GEAR GETS IT'S FIRST TEST IN OPEN WATER

After a bit of cannibalism, TLC and some simple manufacturing, we got 3 of the twin hoses working and in the water during the Waterfront festival along with some refurbished 1960s and 70s ABLJs (big horse collar buoyancy aids for the uninitiated).



Siebe Gorman Mistral with Fenzy

The end result – amazingly they worked! They were a bit of a difficult breathe so a bit more work required. We will be running a pool session on evening of 17<sup>th</sup> July at Eastney if anyone wants a go. Let me know.

### VHF RADIO USERS COURSE



Our second VHF course of the year saw another 5 students qualify to use the latest Digital Selective Calling short-range radios. You have to have a license to operate a radio legally in the UK and only RYA centres can offer this training. So, if you want to learn how to do it properly, let us know.

### A NEW CAREER IN BROADCASTING



Well I was thinking about it the amount of stuff we have been doing recently – Discovery Channel, Ocean FM, Express FM, Original FM and the BBC in the Bahamas. Move over Dermott I'm taking over the hosting of BBLB. In actual fact, we have also started working with BBC Children's TV as they now want to get involved in the diving project in the Bahamas. The plan is that they will come out with the team and then one of the youngsters will get to recover something

from the wreck after it has sunk – to make it look like they were an integral part of the programme. We will be sorting out the training, equipment, planning and organizing for them. More about that as, and when it happens.

### GAS BLENDER COURSE



Not everyone thinks of gas blending as one of those specialities you really should have a go at ..... but then, if you are a DM or an instructor or you simply have an interest in the "dark art" of getting the fills correct (it is magic honestly), then it is probably something you should do. Many congratulations to the 5 candidates who have become our latest newly qualified "blenders".

### SMB WORKSHOP – 14 JULY

We have had several requests to run a couple of SMB workshops and I reckon that will be a good idea – not only looking at you Phil. So we are going to run one on 14 July at Horsea. Workshop is free to club members – just pay entry fee. Numbers limited to 10 so let me know if you want to join in.

### SELSEY LIFEBOAT TIDE TIMES

A few of you have asked us about the tide times for shore dives taking place at Selsey lifeboat station. If you don't get slack you have 2 options – hang on like b\*\*ger or end up in Southsea a few hours later. So if you want to dive there slack water is normally 4 hours before high tide or 3 hours after high tide at Selsey.

### MONTY HALLS – THURSDAY 30 AUGUST



Monty has kindly accepted an invitation from us and is coming to give a presentation at the Royal Beach Hotel on 30 August. This will take the place of the monthly club meeting for September. For those who have not heard of Monty before, here is a potted history – several years in the Royal Marines, left the forces, went diving around the World to some fantastic locations, got into TV and broadcasting work and when not jetting off speaks at functions like this for a living. He describes his speaking style as "telling stories of varying levels of vulgarity depending on the audience".

Monty will be talking about his Great Ocean Adventures – his latest 10 part TV series and book. Having met him before he is extremely amusing as well as informative and it will inevitably be a very entertaining night. The plan is to hold the function in the Invincible Suite of the Royal Beach. Start time will be 7.00 pm and after the presentation we will have the normal excellent food and I'm sure a few ales (at our club discounted rate).

There is a £5 cover charge for the function for club members. Monty has agreed to provide his services for free but that a donation is made to the Scuba Trust, a charity for divers with disabilities. So we thought that £5 would be pretty fair. By all means give more on the night if you want to! It is a ticket only function as we have invited other dive clubs in the area, so if you want to go, please pop in or phone up for your tickets. Maximum numbers are 120 due to the size of the room. Guests are more than welcome but there will be a charge of £10 (£5 of which will go towards the food). It is filling up, it will be great fun and it is in place of the normal club night in September, so if you want to go, let us know.

For more information about Monty and what he gets up to, go to his website [www.montyhalls.co.uk](http://www.montyhalls.co.uk) - and if you make his movies work let me know!!!

### THE BIG RAFT RACE – 26 AUGUST



We have kind of somehow got involved with this event. It is taking place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August at Portland (in the water by Fathom and Blues). The plan is to build a raft (or 2) take it down to Portland, race around the oggin for charity, have some beers and a barbeque, possibly stay the night and dive the next day (Bank Holiday Monday) and then come home. The plan is to raise money for charity and entry fees per raft are going to be £120. So with a team of 8 that is £15. I already have several volunteers but we need more who are willing to help get the stuff to build the raft, build it, paddle it and generally get involved in the Mayhem and fun for a good cause. If you want to get involved I need to know what you want to do and if you want accommodation (about £30 a night) or whether you want to dive on the Monday. We have done raft races before and they were always great fun and this one will inevitably be as well so why not join in.

### DAHAB TRIP 18 – 25 NOVEMBER

At the moment I have about 32 names down for Dahab and so I need to start securing some accommodation and flights as the group is so big. If you have put your name down, still want to go and have not yet let me have a deposit, **can you please do so by 15 July**. I know this is short notice but I am not here at the end of the month so want to get it squared away. The deposit is £200 per person payable by cash or cheque please payable to "Triton".

### Coming up Next month:

**Dartmouth Report** – we give you all the sordid details from the club trip, including the puking and the offensive wellies!

**BBC Kit Checks** – we help the BBC test their gear before we go out to the Bahamas in August

**SMB Workshops** – not only for Phil ...

**Summer Ball Report** – it's gonna be good

**Plus** ..... all the usual informative banter from the Premier dive centre in Portsmouth.

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