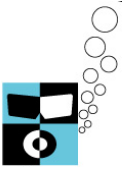




The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

November 2006 Edition

NEXT CLUB MEETING 11 JANUARY 2007

Another reminder - the next "normal" club meeting is on Thursday 11 January next year in the Coast bar of the Royal Beach hotel. **THIS IS THE SECOND THURSDAY IN JANUARY, NOT THE FIRST.**

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

We did it last year and thought we might do it again. For the January club meeting if you have any Xmas pressies that you really didn't want and want to pass it on, then wrap them up again and let us have them as surprise raffle presents for the meeting on 11 January. It is a good bit of fun.

Water Watch Week

We were very pleased to see the article about us in this quarters PADI Undersea Journal. Some of you may remember that back in June we encouraged local schools to take part in Water Watch Week. Our efforts and those of the children involved did not go unnoticed and featured in an article highlighting some of the events that have happened around the globe.



Daleks!!!

Yes when we say that we are committed to equal opportunities for all we really do mean it. Even Daleks are welcome! Club member Rob Thrush popped into the dive centre ... with a Dalek on the back seat of his car. complete with flashing lights and voice effect machine.



POOL CLOSURE

Please note that Eastney Pool will be closed for maintenance between 11 and 27 December so there will be no club pool nights over this time.

She's Back!!



Holidays 2007

I had hoped to have everything organized for publishing in the newsletter this month. We are nearly there, but still waiting for a few things to be confirmed so will be sending out an information sheet later. However, here are the details so far.

May - We are planning a trip to either Tenerife or the Medas Islands in Spain at the beginning of May. This is going to be a long weekend or a full week and should cost in the region of £200 - £300. Flights will be going from Stansted or Luton

September - For the main holiday of the year we are going to be going to Belize. Staying on either Cay Caulker or Ambergris Cay, we will stop off overnight in the US on the way. The barrier reef off Belize is the second largest in the World and offers some superb diving. There is also plenty to do for non divers as well, with Mayan ruins, jungle and mountain treks and lovely deserted islands to explore. The cost of the package is going to be around £1400 for divers.

November - 18 - 25. We are going back for our annual pilgrimage to Dahab. Cost will be around £450

BOOKING FOR BELIZE

The Belize trip already has several bookings and I have secured 20 flights. However, deposits are required as soon as possible.

HORSEA ISLAND INFORMATION

The lake will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day (as you'd expect!). It will also be closed on 27th and 28th December, however on these two dates if there is a group of 10 or more paying divers, Horsea are willing to open if you pre-book by 4pm on 20th December. Also due to security issues a full weeks notice must now be given for night dives. Due to the extra costs, they have raised the minimum number of paying divers to 8 (still £10 a head)

CHRISTMAS SALE WEEKEND

We are having a sale in the dive centre on **16/17 December**. Some whopping bargains up for grabs - so don't panic about getting those last minute pressies, pop in and see us and pick up a bargain

NOVEMBER COURSE SUCCESSSES

Well done to the following who have completed courses with us in November.

Open Water Referral

Liz MacEnri, Paul MacEnri, Emma MacEnri

Junior Open Water

Stephanie Pyle

Open Water

Michael Dangerfield, Vikki Humber, Peter Hewett, Spencer Rogers, Michelle Corbett, Michael Clark, Ursula Trolan, Patrick Hammond, Andrew Clarke, Laura Grinter, Mark Rapp

Nitrox

Barry Fradgley

Wreck Diver

Peter Brookes

EFR

Nigel Clay, Mark Ridgeway, Catherine Chapman, Tim Gray, Marie Erol, Lisa Gray

First Aid at Work

Kim Finnegan, Hamida Pyne, Jane Dodge, Tom Jenkins, Rebecca Beltran, Hayley Haines, Ruth White, Helen Collinge

EFR Care for Children

Mark Ridgeway, Steve Smith

EFR Instructor

Mark Ridgeway, Steve Smith

Medic First Aid Instructor

Mark Ridgeway, Paul Kimbley

MARK ROGERS

It is with deep sadness and regret that we have to tell you that Mark Rogers recently went missing on a dive to the Blue Hole and died as a result of the incident. Mark was a dive guide and instructor at Poseidon Divers in Dahab and was well known to many members of the club who have visited the centre over the past couple of years. He was extremely popular with everyone he met because of his friendliness, energy, enthusiasm and huge sense of fun. Our thoughts, and those of everyone in the club, are with his family and friends at this time. We will miss you Mark.



Dahab Trip Report

.....well what can I say....the week certainly had its ups and downs. We were met at the airport with the horrible news that Mark Rogers was missing which overshadowed the fact that Maz and Steve's luggage had not arrived in the country. "I've got nothing ... she said, not even any knickers!" Steve thought it was all quite amusing and remorselessly took the P for the journey to Dahab.



In the morning with a few sore heads going around, it was paperwork and check out dives. The weather was glorious (although the locals thought it was cold) as the week progressed as they always seem to in Dahab, relaxed, informal and some superb diving. There were trips down 'South', dives at 'Islands', Canyon Bells and the normal local sites. Juergen, one of the dive guides forgot his dive boots on one of the dives and had to purchase a lovely pair of baby blue and orange booties from one of the local shops. This set the trend for the rest of the week's mickey taking and jibes.

Then for a bit of a change a group of us made the trip over to Thistlegorm, and another group went by Camel to some of the more remote sites. I can't speak for the Camel trip (don't they really smell!) but the Thistlegorm trip was fantastic. Brilliant viz compared to diving on wrecks in the UK (well it couldn't be worse), loads to see and a quite a few larger fish including a massive grouper (though marine life is a little sparse due to the amount of divers on the wreck). Being able to swim inside the wreck over racks of motorbikes and jeeps is a little surreal - almost like a trip to the local war museum and the two guns at the stern and the prop are awesome. We also made a third dive on Yolanda Reef/ Shark Reef. The current was ripping through but one group managed to get to the wreck - which was a struggle - but we made it! Not much air left and a little too exhausted to look at the odd toilet strewn around - but fun all the same. After diving we headed back into Sharm and headed for Camel Club - well it would be rude not to have a few bevies!



The next day the holiday started to take its next twist in the tale. We were all booked on the boat for Gabr el Bint, however several people couldn't make it having spent the

...Dahab continued

night being rather ill. The diving as usual at Gabr el Bint was great - although the viz has been better, and most people enjoyed the opportunity to lie about in between dives and sunbathe.

Through out the day some more people started feeling ill and by Saturday morning it transpired that quite a few people had spent the night cuddling their toilet. Still it didn't stop people doing a last day of diving and most people managed to get out to the BBQ that night - and some did manage to keep the Triton reputation intact and stay out drinking till 4am! Having missed the opportunity to buy Juergen a lovely pink top and cowboy hat in Sharm we thought we really should buy him a leaving gift. A lovely pink belly dancing outfit was found and much as it was hilarious watching David try it on to see if it would fit a man, unfortunately it wasn't really man sized. A nice pair of pink trousers and a pink headscarf had to do :-)



All in all the holiday was everything you can expect from a trip to Dahab, fantastic diving, relaxed atmosphere and lovely people. Thanks to the guys at Poseidon for looking after us and enabling us to have a great weeks holiday, especially under the circumstances. We're thinking of you and hope to see you all again soon.

DEMA Report



This year the annual DEMA show was held in Florida and as well as a few wild and wacky innovations significantly there were 2 new rebreathers on show. The Voyager Sport is an Italian manufactured modular system that looks really smart. It comes in various options and with a carbon fibre casing has a space age feel to it. The counter lungs can be mounted in the rear or on the front and there are numerous options available. The one that caught my eye was a lightweight sport system (not sure that KISS might have something to say about the name) which has semi closed and closed modules. The wing system is well integrated into the unit and looks robust enough to last. The other rebreather was a small jet pack system designed and built in the UK by Bubbleseekers. Called the Titan, what strikes you straight away is the small size. Weighing in at only 24 lbs it matches the evolution for convenience. The same company also had a good torch on show. It is a 25W LED that has a wet connection system to an external battery. So you can either use the in-built batteries (4 hours of life) or plug in. It also comes with a glove that fits over the hand rather than the more common handle.

....DEMA Continued

Aqualung has finally brought out something new that is significant - a couple of years ago their only development was a SOS signaling device that was attached to the BCD. They have now introduced the I3 BCD inflation system. It is not pneumatic unlike the MAREs but is very effective for those interested in going away from the usual hose. It does have the traditional fitting as an option for those that want it. Aqualung have also brought out replacement for the Titan regulator. Called the Kronos it comes with a new second stage which includes an extended exhaust that allows breathed air to flow over the intermediate hose helping to warm the hose and prevent free flowing at the low pressure seat - simple but ingenious.

Oceanic have brought out a new fin - the V8 which looks suspiciously like the Scubapro twin speed but is likely to be a cheaper option. I also spotted a full Kevlar suit that would be good on some of those jagged wrecks we are used to in the UK and this was selling at 1600 Euro RRP. Not bad really. The seals are all hand finished and it is extremely well made. Surprisingly it is not made in China but in Italy, which would normally push the price up. Brit company Funky Fins were there for the second year - good to see them doing well and we like the fins and will be stocking them in the New Year ready for the holiday snorkeller's season.

As always there were plenty of Weird and wonderful gadgets - the tank boot with wheels is still going strong, but I did spot a "hands free" reel. This has a whole load of electronic wizardry so that it senses when you go up and winds in automatically, adds torsion to the line automatically and cooks your breakfast and wipes your bum. They also had a self tensioning version which could not snag - apparently That was until I managed to create a birds nest in the middle of it - simple to do - half a turn backwards and it's a total mess. Oh well. And you don't want to know how much it costs!



There was also the convection wetsuit hanger - yes, it's a hanger with a fan that blows air through the suit to dry it more quickly. The glow in the dark rope was no longer there but the snorkel with a light on top was still hanging in there. So that was it - from the land of piped music (incredibly irritating), Mickey Mouse, Universal Studios and thousands of screaming kids All of whom were on my plane going back. **The Oceanic fins will be in stock in the New Year and the Kronos regulator will also be in very soon.**

CHRISTMAS DRINKS

We would love to celebrate the festive season with you once again but this year we are bringing our Christmas drinks and open invitation forward to 16/17 December. Why not pop in for a glass of "Moose Milk" over that weekend.