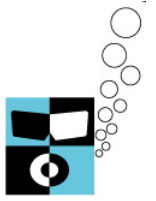




# The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

November 2007

## CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is going to be on 10 January in the Invincible suite of the Royal Beach Hotel. This is the Michael Pitts function and is **ticket only**. It is filling up quickly and there are only about 30 tickets left so if you want come you need to let us know. The event starts at 7.00 pm.

**Many congratulations to all our students who passed courses with us in November.**

### Open Water

Yann Stirton, Susan Gregory-Perry, Kelvin Lam, Melanie Mason, Tiphonie May

### Advanced Open Water

Steve Warwick, David Meade, Bradley Redman, Ashley Redman, Mark Dobbyn, Chris Whyte

### Underwater Digital Photography

Mike Gear, Terry Stocker, Sue Whiting

### Drysuit

Jo Raybould, Simon Lamb, Nate Daniel, Owen Flowers, Mark Dobbyn, Ed Butcher, Chris Whyte, Alfie Rawlinson, Kev Rimmington

## DAHAB REPORT

I do love this dive club – without doubt the best I have been involved in during the 29 years I have been diving! It was our biggest trip ever with 40 club members going to Dahab for a week of fun and some great diving. We have been going to Dahab for many years now and we always have a good time and this year was no exception.



On arrival by coach at the airport we discovered that the tickets had not been printed which caused a slight delay but nothing to worry about. We were met at Sharm and within 2 ½ hours (has to be a record) of the wheels hitting the runway most of the group were in Totas having a cold Sakara. The new boys to Dahab were into it straight away and realized that bad dancing and staying up all night was the order of the day. Infact Tim and Ian were so good at it that I thought about writing a PADI speciality courses for it in their honour!!! Diving on the first day was wonderful – calm water, hardly any wind and just a few hangovers. Infact, diving all through the week was a bit like that. The group made several forays to the south as well as Canyons, Bells and Blue Hole towards the end of the week. As usual there were several other incidents of note during the week that made it memorable. I contracted man flu again (getting to be a habit in Egypt), Donk managed to lose his camera at Eel Gardens; this was bad

enough but Ruth rubbed salt into the wound when she asked if he had brought the download cable for it (as I had forgotten mine) – well come on Donk, you aren't going to need it again! The evenings took on a familiar feel as we generally ate somewhere then ended up in one of the Bedouin style pits at the back of Totas, generally drinking ourselves to a state where discretion and valour disappeared and we could take to the dance floor with confidence. An impromptu Vodka snorting contest resulted in some excellent video footage as well as the main conspirators buying local arab gear and terrorizing the local community. Timeee felt aggrieved that the top of the Vodka bottle had fallen



into the pool; either because he is an environmentally concerned individual, or more likely, because without it, anything left over at the end of the session might be spilt. So he took his clothes off, jumped in and discovered that the water temperature had a sex changing quality all of its own. Michael Gear also managed to find himself camera-less by the end of the week, flooding the thing in spite of just having successfully completed the digital photography course – lesson 1: How to check you camera does not leak. By the way we have the new F50 on special offer at the moment in the centre! The boat dives to El Sugarat and Gabr el Bint were excellent if a little bit adventurous. After a short debriefing from myself and several others in the group, the skipper has now registered that he is not to put the engine in gear when people are hanging off the back of the boat. Apart from that some excellent diving. The Bells Blue hole dive on the Friday was marred by some disgraceful behaviour by Messrs Rose and Reedman (what, "again" I hear you say). On the second dive they decided to plummet to 41m, knowing that neither was truly capable mainly because Timeee dives with Italian gear that's RUBBISH, and Rosey has the underwater buoyancy characteristics of a breeze block - RUBBISH.

Not only that, but they dragged poor old Noel down to the depths with them, knowing he was not qualified, **AND** they did a reverse profile – **and** when the dive guide quite rightly gave them a bollocking (well mainly to Timeee because she thought Rosey was a bit cute and I reckon she was trying to get into his Calvin Kleins) they both put the blame onto poor innocent Noel. Anyway the upshot was I filled in an incident report, cobbled together by myself, Anna (dive guide) and Ed (CD at Poseidon) and our recommendation was that they

undertook retraining commencing with a snorkel test. The rest of the night saw more shenanigans in the pool, a ban on underwear (unless you were wearing it on your head for some reason!) and a mutual



tattooing session with bios! It was another great evening and a fitting way to round off the trip, with plenty of laughs. It is, as I said at the beginning, a pleasure to be involved in what is without a doubt the best club in the South, and to be able to holiday with some of the nicest people and have some brilliant fun. Thanks to everyone who went and to Ed and all at Poseidon for making it such a memorable trip. I cant wait until the next time – so for those who read the newsletter rather than scan it a date for your diaries .... 16 – 23 November 2008!

## NEW GEAR IN THE CENTRE

We have just had yet another overhaul of gear in the "back room" and have brought in a whole load of new BCDs, regulators as well as mask, fins snorkels and boots. The biggest change you will notice is the introduction of Shadow Semi dry suits in the school and hire equipment pool. The previous suits had served us well but we had managed to have a bit of a mix up along the way and sizing could be difficult. With the new shadows students will get a lovely 5mm shorty for the pool work and then move straight into the full suit and



hood for the open water work. Our open water courses had them for training in November and their verdict ..... extremely toasty.

## TRIPS COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Yes, the weather is closing in, the nights are getting darker but there are still some opportunities to go diving. We have a couple of club trips planned for December:

### VOBSTER QUAY TRIP 2 DECEMBER

We have a trip going down to Vobster. The plan is to leave at 8.00 am and drive down, do a couple of dives, have a burger. Entry

fee is £15 and we will be having some transport going down there if you need a lift.

### STONEY COVE WEEKEND 15/16 DECEMBER.



We are going to Stoney Cove for the weekend. For those who have not been, this lake near Leicester offers something for everyone. The quarry has a maximum depth of 35m for the adventurous, and there are plenty of wrecks to explore as well as some good marine life. There are several options for this trip. You can come with us at 5.00 on the Friday evening (we are taking transport) and spend the night in a local hotel ready for an early start on the Saturday. Or you can come up on the Saturday or the Sunday. The choice is up to you. Accommodation is £30 per night sharing (approx) and £15 entry per day. Should be a lot of fun.

### LAST DIVE OF THE YEAR 27 DECEMBER 2007



We did this last year and it was a great day out and we will be doing it again. We will be going diving to Vobster Quay the day after Boxing day (so hopefully the turkey will have gone down). Leaving the dive centre at about 8.00 am for a drive down to Somerset. We will be taking some



of our transport if you want a lift. Entrance is £15.00. The viz is usually excellent as you can see from the image above – the wreck at 20m. Let us know if you want to join us.

### EFR INSTRUCTORS COURSE 22/23 DECEMBER

I still have a couple of spaces on an EFR instructors Course running over the weekend of 22/23 December. Cost of the 2 day course is £220 and includes an EFR

refresher, all materials and manuals. Registration fees to EFR (around £80) are payable in addition. If you would like to join this programme let me know.

### GET TO KNOW YOUR REGULATOR! A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON REGULATORS AND SERVICING 12 JANUARY 08



We have run some very successful equipment workshops in the past and a few equipment speciality courses. One of the things that has always cropped up from a lot of you is that you want to know more about your regulators. How they work, how are they fixed, how do they get taken apart and put back together. So .... with this in mind and being an Advanced ASSET Servicing Centre we have put together a seminar/workshop to cover just that and more. We were planning to do this early December but there are too many things going on hence the slight delay. So if you want to know what to do when it free flows, how to find the problem, how to adjust it in an emergency, the difference between overbalancing and hydrostatic amplification, what to do when it floods, piston versus diaphragm, downstream and upstream valves, and why Mares Regulators are rubbish Tim! .... and much much more ..... so why not come along. This programme is not a certification course, but it will enhance your knowledge give you some hands on experience and you will find it interesting. The seminar is going to last the best part of a day and will cost just £50 which **includes** lunch and refreshments.

### MOOSE MILK WEEKEND! COME AND JOIN US 22/23 DECEMBER



It is hard to believe that we are so close to Christmas. Traditionally we always have a few drinks and eats in the shop for those of you that want to pop in and say hello or buy a few last minute pressies. We thought we had better keep the tradition going so on the weekend of 22/23 December why not join us in the dive centre for a glass or two of Moose Milk and a few snacks. Remember to leave the car behind!!!! Look forward to seeing you.

### CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

We are going to be closed on 24/25/26 December. We will be open again on 27 December bright and early for everyone going on the last dive for the year to Vobster.

### YET ANOTHER AWARD FROM PADI



They are coming in thick and fast now. 2 awards in the same number of months. The latest one reads "Awarded to Triton Scuba for outstanding customer service and professionalism in PADI scuba instruction acknowledged as follows: Whilst I have good experiences at several PADI Resorts and Dive Centres around the world, I still feel that Triton stands out above them for the quality of its staff and its training" Signed Peter Hulme.

Thanks Pete – we appreciate the support.

### DARTMOUTH – ADVANCED WARNING

Advance notice for you – we have a trip booked for Dartmouth next year. This is always a popular trip and over subscribed so if you want to go let me know. This year I have had a word with the skipper and as well as excellent tides he has promised sunshine and calm seas. Excellent! Dates of the trip are 9 – 10 August. I know, a long way to go but you need to book early for this one. I will need money up front to secure a place. The cost, due to increases in their prices is going to be £145 for the diving and 2 nights B&B accommodation. A good time is guaranteed. Deposits of £50 are required at this stage.

### THIS MONTHS SPECIAL PRODUCT OFFER – SCUBAPRO BAGS THIS IS A FANTASTIC DEAL



The Scubapro range of luggage is one of the best on the market and has always been out of the price bracket of many. One of the best in their range is the Dive'n'Roll. This has a hard "shell on one side, wheels, extendable handle, detachable rucksack and reg bag, is made of ripstop material and looks the business. The retail price of this bag on its own was £169. However for this deal we are also throwing in the large Scubapro Rucksac (normal retail £37) for the total price of £125 for the 2 bags. **This is a discount of £81.** We have 10 of these Bags in the store and THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. If you want to come and have a look pop into the centre, but don't hang around as we sold 2 packages the day they came in.

### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR US

The annual diver awards are coming up. So why not log onto the website and put in a vote for us as the Best Dive Centre, and either Tim Reedman, Robin Walker or Jules Pike as Best Newcomer – and tell all your friends to do it as well. You can go [www.divernet.com](http://www.divernet.com) or go straight to the voting page by clicking [here](#).

### COMING UP NEXT MONTH

**Christmas Ball** – full report and pictures  
**Stoney Weekend** – full report and pictures  
**Last Dive of the Year** – all the gossip

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