



# The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

October 2005 Edition

## NEXT CLUB MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> November

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Coast Bar, Royal Beach Hotel. **Please let us know if you will be coming.**



## HALLOWEEN

The Halloween party on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October is **now full**. If you have put your name down but not yet paid, you can do so on the door. If you have put your name down but are unable to attend, please let us know as we can give the ticket to someone else! We hope that you are all preparing your costumes for the event! Any volunteers for decorating the Coast Bar on the Friday afternoon will be more than welcome, please let us know if you are available to help.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

That time of the year again, the shops are filling up with Christmas goodies and people are rummaging in the attic to find the decorations! The Triton Christmas party is at the **Queens Hotel**, not at the Royal Beach!! It is almost full already so if you would like to come, you need to book soon!! The price is £10 for members, £30 for guests, including food, pre-dinner drinks, wine and entertainment. If you have put your name down and not yet paid, please do so before the end of November. If you require an overnight stay at the Queens Hotel, there are still rooms available through the dive centre. You need to let us know by the end of October.



## PLENTY OF NEW EFR INSTRUCTORS

22 October saw another successful course completed with 3 of our diving instructors and 2 divemaster all passing their Emergency First Response and Care For Children Instructors courses. Photo to follow. Well done to Mandy, Brett, Deano, Roz and Mem - especially as they decided to complete the final exam with closed books by mistake!

## DIVES COMING UP

The cold weather is setting in and the sea is a little unpredictable, so we will be looking at organising trips to inland dive sites such as Wraysbury and Gildenburgh. We will also be arranging trips to Portland and Plymouth. Please contact the dive centre for information on the November schedule, or use the members area online for up to date information.



## WRAYSBURY Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

If you fancy a bit of a change from Horsea Island, why not take a trip to Wraysbury Lake near Heathrow. The lake is 12m deep, with sunken objects such as buses, boats and taxis. You will also find a lot of freshwater fish! Entry is just £6! Please come and put your name down if you would like to go. A 5 or 6 seater van will be available for transport.

## PORTLAND TRIP 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November

We will be organising a weekend away to Portland, Dorset. There are plenty of wrecks both in and out of the harbour, with depths varying between 20-50 metres. The cost of this weekend will be about £80 per person, including accommodation Friday and Saturday night and 2 dives a day. Again, please let us know if you would like to go.

## COURSE SUCCESS

As usual we have had a very busy month with lots of divers attending courses. Congratulations to all

### Open Water

John Little, George Taylor, Veronique Pierre, Jose Rodriguez, Sarah Lebel, Clare Prior, Jason Green, Maz Redman, Ryan Kettingham, Adam Taylor, Emma Ward, Adem Arabacki, Rob Thurmott, Katia Palmisano.

### Advanced Open Water

Sheree Payne, Andy Meade, Ken Winkley, Pete Carmichael, Dewi Cary, Craig Bracken, Chris Wilkes, Geraldine Felix, Dave Withers, Toby O'Keefe.

### Junior Advanced Open Water

Sian Ralph, Shannon Simpson.

### Rescue Diver

Mike Haw, Camilla Robins.

### Drysuit Speciality

Sheree Payne, Andy Meade, Ken Winkley, Shannon Simpson, Orhan Akra, Chris Wilkes, Craig Bracken, Geraldine Felix, Sian Ralph, Dave Withers, Pete Carmichael.

### Wreck Diver Speciality

Mark Tillyard.

### Enriched Air Diver Speciality

Orhan Akra, Graham Humpston.

### Instructor Development

George Murray, Archie Gall, Mark Totterdall.

### EFR & CFC Instructor

Brett Maton, Dean Finlay, Mandy Cox, Roz Cobley, Meryem Tekin.

### DAN O<sub>2</sub> Instructor

Mandy Cox.

## STAFF INSTRUCTOR SUCCESS

Congratulations to our new Staff Instructor Neil Davidson on passing the SI course this month. Neil has been assisting the Instructor candidates with their IDC.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is now fully operational as an electronic source, and we hope that any previous problems encountered with access and downloading have been resolved. With the exception of those who have requested the newsletter by post, paper copies of the newsletter will not be sent to you. If you have any problems, please e-mail us at [helpdesk@tritonscuba.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@tritonscuba.co.uk).

## DEMA REPORT ALL THE LATEST FROM DAVID

DEMA is the diving industry's biggest trade show and takes place in the US. This year it was held in Las Vegas (which quite clearly is a terrible place to have to go for a show!). I have been attending the show for about 5 years now and it never ceases to amaze me what you can find in the vast hall. So, I thought I might share some of my finds with you this year.



DEMA Show

Top of the list has to be a couple of new products from some big manufacturers. Oceanic have produced a new jacket. They have called it the Excursion which may add to some confusion as this is also the name of one of their kit bags. The excursion is a wing type jacket which will replace the Chute 3 system early next year. The colour scheme and features list look pretty good so if you are looking for a sports wing it is worth looking at. Later into 2006 the oceanic team will also be launching a new mask.



Oceanic Excursion Wing

Something else that caught my eye was a new scooter from Seadoo. The latest model has been beefed up from earlier versions, which do not really take the rough use they get from students. With 3 speeds a longer battery life and a top speed of around 3 knots, this latest model looks promising.



Seadoo Scooter

I made a couple of purchases while I was there as well and one was a new knife from Spyderco. John Bantin from Diver magazine missed the product but I gave him a full run down on the plane coming back so that he could include it in his DEMA report in next months edition. Called their SALT range, they are a "knife for life" in that they cannot rust even in salt water and are extremely sharp. I only wish they came in some sort of holder so they can be more easily attached to dive gear.

Custom divers, well known for high quality technical gear have produced a new wing system. Called the Bravo (Alex from CD told me it is Italian for "clever") the wing has a unique twin bladder system. No bags, simply a separating sheet built into the back wing. It is also adaptable to single tanks and can be pulled apart to work as a travel wing as well. With an injection of colour from their normal black or black I reckon it is going to be a very popular product.



Custom Divers Bravo

While on the topic of Custom divers, they are also now selling the Megladon CCR. This is still awaiting CE approval but at a price and size to match the Ambient Pressure range of CCRs it will be interesting to see what happens in that particular market.

As well as new developments in these traditional products, there are always a few more "interesting" ones on show. Some are good, some are amusing and some are ridiculous; I will let you make up your own mind which is which! For example, there was a snorkel from a Korean manufacturer with a built in light on the top, indispensable for those regular night snorkels you undertake and a great safety feature when snorkelling in foggy conditions.



Night Snorkel with Light

There was the rope and cleats that glow in the dark – just remember to shine your light on them first for a period of time to make them glow.



Glow in the dark Cleats

There was the tank boot with built in wheels – well hey, we put men on the moon before we put wheels on suitcases so don't knock it.



Wheelie Tank Boot

"I particularly liked" (IDC style) the integral 30m watertight sliding container which I was told "could take a packet of cigarettes or a phones" – just in case you need a fag or to get in touch with a loved one while you are half way through that third dive of the day.

There were loads of other products, sublime and ridiculous that keep an avid kit freak amused for hours, it was only a pity that I had to party on the Las Vegas strip at the end of each day – the worst bit of the trip obviously. Next year DEMA is in Orlando, so may well be reporting on the latest affair between Mickey, Minnie and Goofy as well as all that is weird and wonderful in the diving world.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to the popularity of our social events, we have already confirmed dates for both the Valentines and Summer Balls. These will be held at the Ark Royal Suite in the Royal Beach Hotel, giving us a greater capacity for eating and dancing! The Valentines Ball will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> February and the Summer Ball on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## CLUB POOL SESSIONS

Club members are reminded that St. Edmunds School Pool is available every Wednesday evening, free of charge, with free kit hire!! This is a great opportunity to keep your skills up (especially over the winter months!), try out new kit or just to get wet! However we have noticed that very few members are using these sessions, and if this continues we may have to think about discontinuing these pool evenings. If you would like these sessions to continue then please make use of the facility.

## NAS COURSES

Some of you may remember that in January this year we sponsored a Nautical Archaeology Course. This enabled our members to attend the course at reduced rates. This was a great success, and was written up in SportDiver magazine to encourage other dive centres to follow our lead. We are pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring another course early in 2006. If you are interested in attending this 1-day introductory programme in marine archaeology, please contact the centre.



Triton NAS Course January 2005

## DIVE SHOW WEEKEND SALE 29 – 30 OCTOBER

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be holding our own 'dive show' on the Halloween weekend at the end of the month. Many items will be discounted including clothing and accessories, boots, undershirts and wetsuits. There will also be some fantastic package deals on brands such as Oceanic and Scubapro. So if you don't fancy the longhaul to Birmingham, just come and join the Southsea show. There will of course be a few drinks flowing and nibbles available!!

## EGYPT TRIP 13th – 20th NOVEMBER 2005



Fast approaching, the trip to Dahab mid November is fully booked and tickets have been processed. A letter will be issued shortly, giving the final details of the holiday. If you have any queries, please contact the centre.

## WEYMOUTH WEEKEND

The trip on the White Horse 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October was a bit of a hairy ride as the weather closed in on the liveaboard. A group of Triton Divers boarded the boat on the Friday, when the weather was slightly rough. Unfortunately the conditions worsened and the word on the street is that there was quite a lot of vomiting!! Several people did manage to get in the water and had some good dives, others stayed on the deck feeling worse for wear! An experience to say the least, apparently the boat was escorted back by the lifeboat to safety!! I am sure that those on board will have more tales to tell at the club meetings! We are glad that you all got home safely.



Weymouth Harbour

## INDONESIA HOLIDAY REPORT

At the end of September, 16 club members took the long journey via Singapore, to North Sulawesi in Indonesia. We finally made it to the beautiful resort, a little tired and hungry! After a briefing from resort staff we made it to our rooms. Feeling slightly more energetic, several divers could not wait until the morning and went on a shore dive to explore the house reef!



Bangka Island

Early the next morning, 2 boats took us on the journey to Bunaken National Park, a marine reserve run by the WWF. The area is volcanic and the Islands covered by dense rainforest. The quiet reserve boasted a huge assortment of marine life, in clear warm water.



For the following week, the resort boats took us to the numerous dive sites around the park Islands, for 2-3 dives each day. The knowledgeable dive guides pointed out some fantastic critters on the sheer coral walls. On each dive there was something new to be seen, including black tip reef sharks, huge turtles, spotted rays, octopus, seahorses (including rare pygmy species), crocodile fish, box fish, puffer fish, moray eels, pipefish, squirrelfish, scorpionfish, frogfish, stonefish, lionfish, napoleon wrasse and hundreds of clownfish! Phew – the list goes on! That is just the fish, not beginning to mention the hundreds of different hard and soft corals! We also encountered 5 fantastic giant clams, which had some of us in fits of giggles! Unexplained currents and notorious 'whirlpool dives' were also experienced by some of the group!

The non-divers joined us on the boats and were not disappointed as we saw some dolphins on the way to the dive sites, and they were kept entertained by the surface interval shopping, a new experience for many of us as some local 'floating shops' brought goodies aboard and Triton Divers willingly spent a fortune on shell jewellery, wooden games, t-shirts and sarongs (for both sexes!!). I imagine we made some Bunaken residents very rich during our stay!!



Surface Interval Shopping

Other activities included a trip to the shopping mall, where the ladies of the group got rather a lot of unwanted attention from local men!! A trip to a fish restaurant followed, where we totally confused the staff due to a slight language barrier!! We finally received numerous dishes of unidentified food! Again, an unforgettable experience! Late nights out were had by the 'boys' of the group, who located a pool bar and nightclub. Many of the details of these outings are not suitable for publishing in the newsletter, but I understand that a good time was had by all!



Evening Entertainment

Towards the end of the trip, we took a couple of excursions to Lembeh Straits for some 'muck diving' with plenty of strange critters lurking in the volcanic sand, and to Bangka Island to see some fantastic soft corals and pygmy seahorses. On the day before departure some of the group took a trip to the volcano for some serious trekking, followed by some browsing at a local market (bat wings and field rats included!)



Boats at Lembeh

All were in agreement that the holiday was fantastic, with good accommodation and food, lovely weather and amazing dives. Congratulations to Maz Redman for completing the Open Water course during the trip, and to Hannah Johnson and Toby O'Keefe for becoming Advanced Open Water divers. All that is left to say is 'Terima-Kashi' to all for a good time!!

## 2006 HOLIDAYS

As well as the usual jaunts to Egypt, we will be organising another 'Big One' possibly to South Africa!!! Keep an eye on the newsletter and website as details will be coming soon!



Great White Cage Dive