



The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

October 2007

CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is going to be on 1 November at the Coast bar. Please let us know if you are coming. Menu is posh French beef stew (bourguignon), veggie lasagne for the tree huggers, mustard mash and veg.

XMAS BALL – 8 DECEMBER

The Christmas Ball is now full and paid for with a full capacity of 130 names down for it. It is going to be a great evening. We will be sending out menus in the next few days so let us have them back as soon as you can otherwise we will assume you want soup, turkey and Christmas pud.

Many congratulations to all our students who passed courses with us in what was a VERY busy October.

Scuba Diver

Melanie Mason

Open Water

Samantha McEntee, George Mason, Tim Lewis, Ash Gasson, Graham Cole, Russ Turner, Ben Barnes, Gemma Frost, David King, Chris Whyte, Samuel Galister, Alex Isaacs, Alfie Rawlinson, Austin Bishop

Junior Advanced Open Water

Zac Skeats

Advanced Open Water

Shane Freemantle, Gavin Paddock, Oliver Hext, Lewis Dodsley, Aaron Pardy, Andre Cornelius, Steve Youell,

Enriched Air Diver

Gavin Paddock, Oliver Hext, Jason Knapton, Andrew Osborne

EFR Instructor and FAW Instructor

Tim Edwards, Mike Touhy, Brian Howe

Master Scuba Diver

Nigel Clay

Instructor Status Update

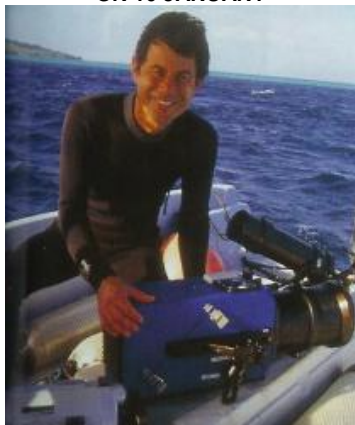
Chris Morris

RYA Powerboat Level 2

Michael Pitts, Kate Chapmen, Justin Underwood

MAKING BLUE MOVIES!

A PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL PITTS
ON 10 JANUARY



Ok you lot, calm down It's not what you think! You may remember that at the end of August we had a very successful event when we invited Monty to the club to give a talk. It was a hugely entertaining evening and raised £500 for charity. Anyway, we have invited Michael Pitts to the club on 10

January (which is going to be a club night). Michael is an award winning photographer and underwater film cameraman who has worked on projects such as The Blue Planet, Walking with Beasts and more recently the LIFE project (with me in the Bahamas). His talk is called Making Blue Movies and looks at some of the ingenious ways of achieving the stunning footage that have made him renowned in the underwater film making world. Michael has agreed to give his talk for free and as before we thought we would charge £5 which will go to charity for club members and £10 for guests to cover food. The event will take place in the Royal Beach Hotel starting at 7.00 pm. It is a ticket only event and I have attached an application form for tickets at the back of the newsletter and some information about Michael. We have a big hall for this event so we are going to open it up to some of the other dive clubs in the area, but only after club members have had a chance to book tickets. There are 120 spaces available and if Monty's talk was anything to go by, tickets will go fast so let me know as soon as possible. Don't forget, this will take the place of the normal January club night. It promises to be another cracking evening so get your names down.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THE GREAT SOUTH RUN



Well done to all the Triton team who completed the Great South on the 28th. Lets face it, the conditions were **horrendous**. I mean it rained last year but this year it was accompanied by gales!!! So it was a great effort by everyone who managed to take part no matter what your times. We have raised loads of money (just **over £1000** at last count) so thanks to everyone who sponsored the team. If you have made a pledge, could we ask you to drop your sponsorship money into the dive centre. And if having seen the hard work and effort that went into it you now feel like donating you can still do so on our links. So go on – give us a few extra quid.

MASTER SCUBA DIVER

Many congratulations to Nigel Clay on achieving the heights of Master Scuba Diver – the highest non-professional rating in PADI. Nigel has not been diving long so it is a very impressive achievement. He is currently a trainee DM in the centre so you will see him around (but then maybe you wont – being a black belt ninja of diving and all that)

CLUB WEEKEND IN PORTLAND 29 – 30 SEPTEMBER



With viz in the Solent area being at an all time low this year we decided that rather than vainly batter away against the elements and pay too much money for crap dives (I think the sarcastic phrase once used was why not pop down to the dive centre and put your head in a cup of coffee instead!) that we would move slightly further west to tease out a few last dives of the season. So we arranged a Portland weekend. 16 club members made the trip to Portland, where we 'Teamed up' with Fathom and Blues for some RIB dives. After spending 3 1/2 hours fighting the traffic on Friday night we eventually met up at The Royal Breakwater bar where there was much deliberation about who should sleep where, and if Mike Gear 'really did snore THAT badly'. Then it was beer and discussion about the planned diving for the next day.



Dale had very kindly scheduled the first dives on Saturday for midday, which judging by the state of the hangovers was not a bad thing. We had a mixed group, so there were 2 itineraries booked. The Countess of Erne, and the M2. Viz on The Countess was about 4 metres so not that bad, and was thoroughly enjoyed by those that did the dive, the M2 on the other hand was 'interesting' to say the least. Someone turned the lights off at 17 meters, and with a little current running, it made for an exciting dive. Stories of the huge conger

eels, and massive crabs were the talk of the rib ride back.



After a spot of lunch it was time to kit up again for the second dives of the day. Lulworth banks and The James Fennel. For those who haven't done Lulworth Banks, this is a great drift dive. Scallop bed central. F&B have a strict "no take" policy this left some of the divers frustrated in having to leave the food for the BBQ on the bottom - guys, remember fish are friends! Also spotted during the dive was a Thornback Ray, cuttle fish and squid. The guys doing The James Fennel also had a good dive, especially Helen and Charlotte, who, not content with looking at the wreck decided they'd have a little drift dive as well. 25 minutes later they surfaced to find that they were possibly marginally closer to France than they were to England. After making contact with a passing Catamaran, (well actually it nearly ran them over) and using some passable French linguistic skills (just in case) the RIB finally picked them up.



F&B had organized a BBQ for us on the Saturday night with the promise of 'all the beer you could drink'. Being the premier dive club in Portsmouth etc and not wanting to let anyone down, we put in a commendable performance and attempted to drink any profit Dale may have made during the day. Due to the fact that the weather was turning and the BBQ had gone out it was decided that we would retire to The Breakwater for a quicky just before going to bed. It was there that we discovered that contrary to popular belief, Elvis is NOT dead but resides in Portland. Shocking scenes followed as the beer flowed and confidence grew, nearly everyone thought they could do better. Jules in particular was on fine fettle as some shocking video footage of him dancing proves!!

Sunday saw an early start and a few missing faces - something to do with the beer I assume. The weather had also deteriorated so the planned drift off White Nothe was changed to the Landing craft and the Bombard unit in the harbour. Nice dive with plenty to see and lots of life on it. Charlotte eventually surfaced from her pit and decided that the car was a much better place to be than a RIB. However with much persuasion she decided to come for a ride

to Pulpit Rock. Unfortunately the weather was getting worse, and with 2 meter swells and a Force 4 blowing she wished she hadn't as she was drenched in about 30 seconds! So we turned around and did The Countess.

It was yet another classic club weekend away, with plenty of fun and some excellent diving. Many thanks to Dale, Ron and all the staff at F&B for making it a great weekend. More trips are planned for the next few months so if you want to join in let us know in the dive centre

IMPORTANT NOTICE DAHAB 18 NOVEMBER AMENDED COACH DETAILS

An amendment to last months details – the coach will leave the dive centre at **4.30am**, not 4.00 as stated in last months newsletter.

FILMING IN STONEY COVE WITH THE BBC

This has been delayed – hopefully we will be able to let you have the details next month.

INSTRUCTOR MEETING



It was about time we had another staff meeting but as the company gets bigger so do the meetings! 22 instructors and DMs turned up for a meeting and dinner at the Noble House on 18th October, including some new staff members who have just joined us. It was a cracking meeting covering a range of topics from PADI standards to equipment maintenance – all aimed at making the premier dive centre in the South even better

THIS MONTHS LATEST PRODUCT OFFER THE FUJI FINEPIX F50



Fuji have launched yet another stonking camera package. The F50 is their latest and includes a whopping 12 mega pixels capability, face recognition feature, 6400 ISO (it can take pictures in the dark without a flash basically), automatic red eye reduction and much, much more. There is some good information on the www.fujifilm.com website or alternatively why not just pop into the dive centre for a look. We are the only stockists of the camera and underwater housing in Hampshire. The package includes a 1 Gbyte memory card and leather case. Normal price is £489 and we are offering a **massive £100 off** while stocks last.

GUNWHARF DISCOUNT FOR CLUB MEMBERS

The Savoy Tailors Guild based in Gunwharf is the latest clothing outlet in the shopping precinct. On production of a Triton Divers club card you will get a **10% discount** on any purchases you make. Why not check out what they have on offer. If you want to offer a discount to club members why not let us know and we will pass it on.

GALAPAGOS 13 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2008 FINAL CONFIRMATION



Ok we have the flights for this and the trip is confirmed. The itinerary will be the same as listed in the September newsletter. We also have the majority of deposits in for those who said they wanted to go. The cost of the trip is confirmed at £1995 for the 14 day trip including diving and twin shared accommodation (subject to exchange rates). If you want single accommodation it will cost £2350 for the package. I have 13 deposits in for this trip already and we still have a few places left so if you want to go and if you have already put your name down can you let me have deposits of £600 as soon as possible.

CAPTION COMPETITION



After the instructors meeting some of us went on to a club for a bit of drinking and dancin'. Now we recognize the people, newly re-qualified instructor Chris Morris and dive centre manager Ian, but we don't know what the dance was. Answers on a postcard please to PADI Quality Assurance Dept (Role Model Behaviour Section), Unit 7, St Philips Central, Bristol.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Dahab Trip Report – There are **40 club members** going on this trip – our biggest group ever! We will let you have all the details!!

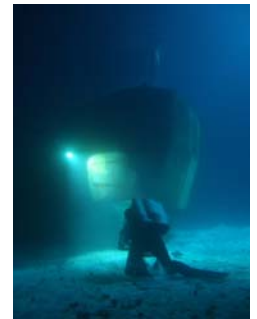
BBC Filming – Hopefully – how to bring the sea of Cortez to Leicester

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



MAKING BLUE MOVIES

**AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL PITTS
AT THE ROYAL BEACH HOTEL
10 JANUARY 2008**



Michael Pitts has very kindly agreed to give a presentation on 10 January to divers in the Portsmouth and Southsea area. His presentation is entitled "Making Blue Movies" and will look at some of the programmes Michael has been involved in over the years. The event starts at 7.00 pm and is ticket only. Michael will talk for about an hour and then dinner will be served. There will be a cash bar available.

The cost of tickets will be £5 to Triton club members and £10 to all other guests (the additional £5 to cover food). All proceeds will be going to charity. Please order your tickets by completing the form below.

Michael Pitts - Life and Career:

Michael Pitts has emerged as one of Britain's best-regarded underwater cameramen. He is also a man utterly in love with the sea. His interest in the marine world was kick-started at the age of eight during a camping holiday on the coast of the Baltic Sea, where he explored the beaches using a snorkel and mask. He left school at 15, and joined the Army as an apprentice aircraft technician, spending a year servicing helicopters at a flying school. He dreamed of being posted to Cyprus or the Far East, where he could enjoy warm water, but ended up volunteering for the Royal Marines.

At the age of 23 he decided to try life as a civilian, and tested out a variety of jobs, until a trip to Israel (which at the time was occupying the prime dive sites of the Sinai Peninsula) helped him to make up his mind. Inspired by the pristine Red Sea, he decided to get a job in Israel and use his spare time to make films with his housed Super-8 film camera.

After five years of exploration, he returned to England and embarked on a commercial diving course at Fort Bovisand, Plymouth. Having qualified as an HSE Part One diver, he began a career as an inspection diver, working in the North Sea and the Persian Gulf. The oil industry also brought him to the Nigerian offshore rigs of Qua Iboe, where he was able to film the marine life attracted to the platforms. 'It was fascinating work in an incredible environment,' he recalls. 'You'd see manta rays, giant grouper - I couldn't believe I was getting paid to do it!'

His employers allowed him to make a film about the marine life around the rigs, which impressed the commissioning producers at Anglia TV in the UK. Enthused, he scraped together enough cash to buy a 16mm Arriflex camera and housing. His first few years were lean, but as his reputation grew, the commissions began to pour in. He even won an Emmy award for his underwater and topside footage for the BBC classic, The Private Life of Plants, in which he worked closely with Sir David Attenborough. He is now established as one of the BBC natural history unit's key cameramen, providing material for series' such as the Blue Planet, Walking With Dinosaurs and, more recently, Walking With Beasts and the series currently being produced "LIFE".

From: _____

I would like to book _____ tickets for the Michael Pitts presentation.
(Triton members £5, all others £10)

I enclose a cheque/cash for _____



NAMES OF PEOPLE ATTENDING	

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