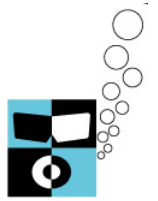


The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

September 2007

CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is going to be on 4 October at the Coast bar. Please let us know if you are coming. Menu is Beef Stroganoff, veggie lasagne, rice salad and veg.

XMAS BALL – 8 DECEMBER

The Christmas Ball is now full, however, we need you to let us have payment as soon as possible so that we can send you a menu and let any spare spaces go to members on the waiting list. Therefore, we have extended the payment deadline **until 14 October. If we do not receive payment by then we will assume you are not going.** Cost is £15 for members and £35 for guests. Cheques or cash only please. Rooms are £50 a night but book early with us.

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

Junior Open Water

Tom Perrin, Zechareah Skeates

Open Water

Gavin Paddock, Oliver Hext, Stephen French, David Malcolmson, Kevin Foster, Kerry Weir, Aaron Parady, Deborah Rose, Michael Steel, Lewis Dodsley, Andrew Osborne

Advanced Open Water

Simon Lamb, Steve Fletcher, Simon Holland

Rescue

Kayleigh Richards, Chris Ayres, David Morgan

EFR

Kevin Smart, Sandy Hickman, Heidi Cruickshank

MONTY HALLS PRESENTATION



The end of August saw the September club night brought forward to combine with a special event – Monty Halls giving a presentation on the making of his programme “Great Ocean Adventures”. Just over 100 turned up at the Royal Beach for the event and as everyone paid £5 to charity we raised £500, which was donated to the Scuba Trust. The event was also probably the first time that 5 clubs in the area got together. There were members from Portsmouth East, Portsmouth West, Southsea Sub Aqua and Cockleshell Divers as well as Triton members. So PADI and BSAC getting together for a good social event, and a great presentation. Many thanks to Monty for coming along and to everyone who turned up to support the event. On the back of its success, we will be looking at doing similar events in the future.

If anyone has any ideas on what they might like to see, please let us know.

BELIZE TRIP REPORT (ABRIDGED VERSION)

This is an abridged version of the Belize report so I suggest you log onto the holiday page of the website (trip reports section) to get the full picture.



“chilled down to de core - touch me”

Hurricane Felix was heading straight for Belize 3 days before we were due to go. In some haste I arranged some emergency accommodation inland in case we were not able to get to the Cayes. As luck would have it the flight out there was delayed meaning that we missed the connection and spent the night in Houston. That day all tourists had



been evacuated from the cayes so we would not have got there anyway. The following day, the Hurricane had gone south to stonk Honduras and we flew straight in to sunny skies! We booked in, found the bars that were open (most had left and boarded up so it was a bit of a ghost town) and sorted out dive gear. The next 4 days we dived the barrier reef and also managed a trip out to Turneffe Atol, which had superb visibility and plenty of big stuff – Eagle Rays and turtles became a bit common to be honest. Caye Caulker had not changed much since I was last there and you could still get a whole lobster meal and a beer for a fiver! Even more importantly rum was only £3.50 a bottle in the supermarket! There were thunderstorms every now and again, which



allowed the population of biting insects the chance to propagate and then home in on Ruth, Becci and Anne when they fancied a snack. Half way through the trip some of the



“Xunantanich”

group decided to take a trip inland to some Mayan ruins (the temple bashing culture bit), and we paddled up river through the jungle, felt a bit like Indiana Jones, sat in an inner tube and went through rapids and cave systems and drank some very nice cocktails. It was then back for a further 3 days of diving, which included the great Blue Hole. It is one of those dives that you just have to do. The caves are not spectacular but they are dramatic and when you look at the size of the rock formations it makes you realize that the cavern system years ago (before it collapsed) would have been VERY impressive. As we swam through the towering rails of rock (like the bars of a cage)



Bull Sharks zoomed in from the gloom. At 40m you didn't need much to tip you into a realm of narcotic happiness!!! Yee hah. All too quickly the trip was over. I think we would all definitely go back again. The diving is superb and living in the Cayes is really cheap and easy. Getting there is not too much drama either (except for when hurricanes come along). Maybe in a couple of years we will think about running another trip there.

DAHAB 18 NOVEMBER COACH DETAILS

There are now 38 club members going on this trip – our biggest trip ever and 5 more than we took to the Philippines some time ago. You have now all received the administration letter and the majority have paid in full. The flight departure time is 9.00 am so we have arranged transport (a 46 seater coach) to leave the dive centre at 4.00 am. If you want to leave your gear and luggage in the dive centre the night before you can do so. This coach will cost £30 per person payable on the day. **If you want to use this coach I need to know in advance, so please just give us a call or drop me an email.**

HOLIDAYS IN 2008

Second Liveboard Booked

The first liveboard is full for May next year and the good news is we do have a second boat which is also filling up. If you want to go I need a £200 deposit (cheques please) payable to Tony Backhurst. Total cost is £895

BAHAMAS – A CHANGE OF PLAN

As you know, as the premier dive centre in the South we like to try and offer a bit of good value when we can, especially to our club members. Unfortunately, we have costed the Bahamas and for several reasons, we do not feel we are going to be able to do this. The package is coming in at around £1.2K which is about £250 more than we wanted to try and get it for. And as we already have an expensive trip going out in September, we have decided to get a nice cheap package in so we have decided to go to Malta. Read on

MALTA TRIP 21 – 28 JUNE



The plan is to fly out on Saturday 21 June for a week of fun and diving in Malta and Gozo. The accommodation will be self catering, but meals in the local restaurants are very reasonable if you can't be bothered to cook. The weather at this time of year is excellent and the flight time is only around 1 ½ hours. The best bit – the trip is going to **cost £345** for twin shared apartment, flights, transfers and 5 days of diving. Single rooms are going to be **£395**. The diving is very good for the Med, especially if you like caverns, tunnels, wrecks and underwater features. **I will only need £100 deposit for the trip BUT** in order to get these prices we need to book early, so we can get the flights. So if you fancy this lovely Mediterranean island for a week in June let me know as soon as possible. Cheque or cash only please.

MORE RECOGNITION FROM PADI



It's always nice to get a bit of toffee! And we have just received **another** Certificate of Recognition for Excellence. The citation reads:

Awarded to Triton Scuba for outstanding customer service and professionalism in PADI scuba instruction as acknowledged below:

I am sure there are more glamorous locations in the world to learn to dive – but for me – the Triton team got it spot on where it counts – the quality of instruction was superb. Signed David Morgan

Thanks for that David – we really appreciate it, and it is good to know we are still getting it right.

THIS MONTHS SPECIAL PRODUCT OFFER LED TORCH BUNDLE



Yes torches have been around for a long time, as have clips and lanyards to be honest, but sometimes you know a good deal when you see one and this is one of them. Princeton Tec have bundled together 3 torches in a pack. The "Shockwave" LED is a 9 watt torch with **20 hours** of burn time. Ideal for UK diving and overseas. It comes with the "Impact XL" LED, a 1 watt torch ideal as a back up or for trips abroad. It also includes the "Eco Flare" – an emergency light that lasts for hours (ideal for marking a shot line, hanging on your tank or anything else you can think of. These come with a detachable lanyard springy thing and a retractable coil thingy. The whole package is only £149. This is a saving of around £50 if you were to buy these items individually. We have some stock in the dive centre and we are taking orders.

CONGRATULATIONS TO A.J AND MRS A.J

We are pleased to let you all know that long time club member AJ and his significant other half, Mrs AJ, produced a mini AJ earlier this month weighing in at an impressive 10lb. Congratulations to you both from all of us and we hope to see you soon.

TECH DIVING AND TWIN SET COURSES IN DAHAB

For those of you going to Dahab who want to branch out into the dark side (in other words do a bit of technical diving), I will be running some Tech and twin set diving courses while out there at a discounted rate.



Option 1 - First of all I will be running the very popular **PADI Twin Set** Speciality course. This is a one day programme that

introduces you to the delights of twin sets, safety procedures, bale out drills and how to get the most from your twin sets. This is available to open water divers and above and will cost **just £79** plus kit hire locally.



Option 2 – if you have a nitrox certification and want to use richer mixes and stage cylinders for decompression stops, why not try the Advanced Nitrox Course. This takes 2 days and qualifies you to dive using up to 50% oxygen. Minimum requirement is 50 logged dives of which 10 must be deeper than 27m. The course will cost just £175, which includes manuals and certifications but not gas or kit hire locally



Option 3 – If you have 150 logged dives of which 50 are below 27m and have a nitrox qualification then you can undertake the Technical diver course. This will qualify you to use up to 100% oxygen as a deco gas and qualify you to 51m. This course will cost £200 including materials and certification but not including local kit hire and gas. If you want to know more, or would like to book onto any of these programmes during the Dahab holiday, please let me know.

GREAT SOUTH RUN

We have had a bit of a poor response to sponsorship for the Great South Run on 28 October. So once again a bit of a plea from me and the other club members all putting our best feet forward to raise money for charity. Stick your hands in your pockets and give us a few quid – with so many club members it will all add up. To support the lifeboats log onto:

www.justgiving.com/triton-rnli

or for the Rainbow Centre in Fareham for children with Cerebral Palsy log onto:

www.justgiving.com/triton-rainbow

Every little helps

Coming up next month in the Newsletter:

Final Details for the Galapagos - we should be getting the final details and flight prices next month so stand by with your deposits if you have put your names down.

Club Trip to Portland – We let you have all the sordid details from the club trip!!!! - (hopefully)

More filming for the BBC – or how we turn Stoney Cove into the Sea of Cortez

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