

The Seahorse Dive Club Newsletter

April 2005

Dear Club Member,

The last of the cold winter weather is slowly disappearing and the start of a new diving season is about to kick off. Several of you have kept up the diving momentum over the winter months, Vobster has been a regular haunt for many and most of the club made it to the Christmas dive at Stoney Cove.

But just a word of caution for those who have not been in the water since last year. As you are all aware, it takes a few dives to get back in the swing of diving in UK waters. So make your first few dives of the season easy and shallow ones. Is your kit up to it? Don't forget to have your kit serviced if a service is due and give it a good check over to make sure all is working as it should. Change any worn O rings, make sure your BC is not leaking, all basic stuff really.

Why not give Mark Horton a call and see what trips he is making to inland dive sites, these are ideal locations for getting back up to speed. Mark is currently completing OW courses and he will be going back to Stoney Cove later this month. Also check regularly the Diving UK webpage on our website: <http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/divinguk.htm>

Regarding the web-site, if you have any links to interesting or useful websites that would be of interest to club members then please e-mail them to me. There are also a few links on the club website now to member's personal sites. Drop me a mail if you would like yours included.

Dive safely,

Steve Cain

Contact: Steve Cain stevecain_diving@tiscali.co.uk Malcolm Cole malcolm.cole@btinternet.com

Latest news

Please welcome new members to the club; Andrew Hancox and Angela and Greg Farmery who joined during March. Here's to some great diving with the Seahorse Dive Club.

The club has arranged with Diver magazine a discount off the cover price of their magazine. At £2 per copy this is a saving on the normal annual subscription price and a substantial saving on the cover price. Anyone who is still interested please contact me and give a cheque for £24 to Malcolm Cole. I will be ordering the May's issues during the first week in April. If you already have a subscription that is about to end we can continue from when you're existing subscription ends.

Diving UK

Mark Horton has been getting the RIBs ready for the forthcoming diving season and they will soon be on their way to Lyme Regis. Mark and Jason are organising trips to Stoney Cove and Vobster and planning courses for the next few months (see the Courses and Training section further down). So now is the time to start getting back in the water.

Dive trips abroad

John Parmiter recently made a trip to the Red Sea, here is John's report:

"I have just returned from two weeks in Sharm El Sheikh day boat diving. The diving was, as always enjoyable. The weather was reasonable, although quite often diving at Shark Reef and on the Tiran reefs was ruled out due to rough seas or not being suitable for mix of divers on board. Most sites dived were therefore Ras Nasrani, Jackfish Alley, and Temple and because there were often O/W courses on board the Garden sites were also well visited. A total of 24 dives over the period. Water temperature round 23°C, and good viz. All in all a good bunch of people and an excellent boat crew.

Generally a quiet period with more boats moored up than working, but with the Dive Centres looking forward to Easter."



Paul Gee has just returned from a trip to Banda Aceh, here is Paul's report:

"I have just returned from Banda Aceh, Indonesia helping with the aid effort with my company Thames Water. It was a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. Whilst there I heard about an Island called Sabang (Palah Weh) that had a PADI dive centre there. I was entitled to two days off after my month working so I headed up there and took the short crossing by boat (20mins). Then I had an hour journey to Gapang Beach where the dive centre was located. I booked up my dives for the next day with the Dutch couple who run the centre. I then relaxed by the sea having a cold beer where I met a Dutch guy who had been diving that day and told me two good sites to dive. He then pointed me towards the best place to eat, Mamas jungle. This is now her house now her restaurant was washed away by the Tsunami.

The first dive was great at a place called Batee Tokong. With its spectacular scenery and it's abundance of marine life, Batee Tokong tends to be a favourite site for divers in Pulau Weh; it takes approximately 20 minutes by boat. It's the Nr.1 Moray place in the world, many hover above a few square metres of rocks and counted at least a dozen of these morays sticking their heads out of their hiding places; I saw a nice 2 metre specimen. I also saw lionfish, scorpionfish and a giant grouper. There were several blue spotted mantas and giant clams. After a nice surface interval I then dived the Rubiah Sea garden. This is famous for its shallow colourful coral gardens. From 10m down follow the rocky slope with big branching hard corals to over 30m before hitting sandy bottom. I was lucky to see a honeycomb moray swimming. I also saw fantastic corals as well as an abundance of fish life. It was like diving in an aquarium. I will have to buy a book to name all the fish I saw. The ones I know are clown triggerfish, surgeonfish, trumpetfish, neons, cuttlefish and more blue spotted mantas.

It was a fantastic experience to dive somewhere off the beaten diving track. The equipment was not the best but a lot was lost in the Tsunami wave. Twenty people died on this island, but the islanders and the dive school are determined to rebuild it."



Dive centre



Dive boat

Courses and Training

Jason will be running the following courses during April subject to demand:

- Open Water
- Enriched Air
- Advanced Open Water
- Rescue Diver

Dates to be arranged as required.

Emergency First Response – 9th April

Jason can be contacted on: 01793 347998 or elephantmann@hotmail.com

Whitehorse Divers is at: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm>

Mark can be reached on: 01793 731843

Social

Dave Hall's Ten Pin bowling night at RAF Fairford is going ahead on the 16th April. No further bookings can be taken now as the closing date has passed.

Don't forget that if you have an idea for a club social event then get in touch with Mark Hampshire, your Social co-ordinator committee member.

For sale

Club clothing is now available. We can now offer a range of Polo shirts, Fleecees, and Caps with the club logo tactfully embroidered on them.

Contact Malcolm Cole malcolm.cole@btinternet.com for prices and to order. They really are very good quality. We expect to see more items from a new supplier soon; with the same quality of course.

Links

Some useful Links and contact numbers:

Seahorse Dive Club: <http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/>

White Horse Divers: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm> Tel: 01793 731843

Website of the month: <http://www.yorkshire-divers.co.uk/>

Contributions are always welcome, if you have something you want including in the next newsletter then please send it to: stevecain_diving@tiscali.co.uk Or malcolm.cole@btinternet.com

Please send pictures as JPEGs or TIFFs and any text as .txt or .doc.

Remember, this is your club, your Newsletter.

Get involved!

This Newsletter is published on the first day of every month.
Please submit any content you want considering for publication by the 21st of the month preceding the publication date.