

The Seahorse Dive Club Newsletter

Editor's Note

It is that time of the month again when the newsletter is being put together and I am should be scrambling around for articles. Fortunately the diving season has started and the club members have finally started getting wet in the sea; the weather has been fortunate over the last few weekends which has allowed a few trips to go ahead and so I have a couple of trip reports this month. The pool sessions have started to get pretty busy too with people getting their OW tickets before jetting off and finding some warm water to dive in! The first long weekend is coming up shortly, so hopefully next month I will be inundated with articles for the June newsletter!

You may have noticed that I have changed the format of the newsletter. I thought I would make some changes and see how they pan out; I am looking for feedback, positive or negative, to let me know how I am doing! If you have any comments drop me a line at the address at the end of the newsletter.

Welcome to...

Andrew Collet (PADI OW), Scott Townson (PADI Adventure) and the 2 Stephen Waggotts, father (PADI AOW) and son (PADI OW). Hope you enjoy the club and make sure you make the most of the trips being put together by Mark Horton and Phil Green.

May 2006

Committee Notes/ Important Club News

Nothing major to pass on from the committee other than the committee want to increase the number of social events, so if you have any ideas, contact the committee.

Tip of the Month Drysuit Storage

As the diving season has started, the drysuits will be making the weekly/monthly/whatever... trip to the sea and getting wet. Drysuits if looked after will last a long time – just look at Mark's!! Here are a few tips to keep yours lasting longer.

After diving, hang your suit to dry with the zipper half-open (front entry) or full closed (rear-entry); it is best to use a shoulder hanger with wide supports. It is best to dry the suit in the shade or inside; you should not dry your suit in direct sun light. After a day of drying, you can talc the inside and outside of your latex neck and wrist seals. Also use a wax (such as beeswax) to lubricate the zipper. If you have an external cover zip, lightly cover this in Vaseline. Your drysuit should be stored in a bag, or other storage container away from any source of ozone such as air conditioning units or heaters, as the ozone can damage latex seals.

Forthcoming Trips

UK – Long weekend is 5-8 May in Lyme Regis. Payments should have been made to Mark Horton for those who want to attend. Any last minute bookings contact Mark Horton for details of the diving and accommodation in the area.

UK – June is the trip down to Porthkerris to, hopefully, see some Basking Sharks. Dave Hall has all the details for this trip.

Overseas – Despite the recent events in Dahab, the trip to Dahab is still going ahead with several members of the club departing the UK on the 11th May. I want some decent photos for a report when you get back!

News from the Dive Media

It was a fairly quite month in the news although I did pick up on a report of an O₂ fire with a rebreather unit. Although no-one in the club has a rebreather, the fire started in the valve of one of the O₂ cylinders and a fire and explosion quickly ensued. Although there were no injuries it did serve as a timely reminder to those with O₂ serviced equipment to make sure that your kit stays clean and oils or grease do not come into contact with the cylinder valves or your first stages (which might contaminate the valve). Full details of the incident can be found <http://www.yorkshire-divers.com/forums/440318-post1.html>.

Underwater Photo Magazine Edition 30 is out <http://www.uwpmag.com>

Trip Reports

*Sunday 16th April 2006
West Bay Dorset – Paul Cole*

We left Mark's "White Cottage" bang on 7:00am. The journey to Bob Perry's Boat yard was made with Mark, Tony, Mike, Paul & I in the Van and Mr & Master Steve Waggot followed us in their car. Once the Rib was attached we did not take the familiar road to Lyme Regis but continued west and onto West Bay. The new works carried out in West Bay over recent years have made for excellent slipway facilities. Even at low tide the slip is accessible for the launching & pick up of ribs, as you can see from the photos.



We parked the Van in the nearby car park once the Kit had been dropped off and the boat moored up on the pontoon. The Car Park has this year set its maximum ticket stay to 3 hours, so we shall have to see if the re-ticketing that is necessary will be allowed or whether we shall need to use the long stay car park a little way off. No worry's this weekend and very soon we had all kitted up and walked the short distance down to the pontoon and loaded the kit onto the boat. This is all very easy compared to wading through sucking mud & water to get to the boat at low tide in Lyme.



Mark took off and we were soon at Saw Tooth ledges. After a short search pattern the shot line was pushed over and we began what we all came for – getting wet!

Always aware that for all of us this was the first dive in open sea of the year, this was a relatively gentle dive. It was a shake-down of mind, body and kit.

Diving with my brother as Buddy we dropped over the side and the surface current took us to the line. We saw the Waggots on the line as ear clearing had caused them to sensibly end their dive early rather than continue with the problems getting worse.

Paul & I dropped down slowly to the 24 meters and the sandy bottom. After a short while we deployed the DSMB as this was to be a gentle drift dive.

Early on we saw a Dog Shark "sleeping" on the bottom. There was little other Marine life but we did come across a long net that had caught a crab which try though I might it was just too tangled into the nylon for me to release it. We saw the dog shark again definitely the same one as he came to say hello and asked if we had enjoyed the diving! It was beginning to get cold now (water temp was notably colder than the Lime Kiln Pool) and I decided it was time to begin our ascent to the surface as we had agreed to keep the dive within a 30

minute time limit due to the temperature.

Reaching the surface bang on 30 minutes dive time the Rib was quickly at our side and we got back on board. Once the others had been picked up we were soon heading back.

It with great annoyance that I was feeling sick, even more so as I had really looked forward to that day's diving so it did not feel it sensible to continue diving. This gave me the after noon to look around West Bay. Whilst not as picturesque as Lyme it did have enough facilities for the dedicated divers. I just wish the loos were nearer to the boating facilities.

All told we had a good days diving and once we had safely stored the rib and washed it down we headed back to Swindon. A day of relaxing diving thanks again to Mark for organising a well executed day. Thanks also the Steve Waggot Senior as I had forgotten my gloves – without them it would have been a shorter and colder dive I have no doubt!

18th & 19th April 2006 – Plymouth
Gareth Lock

2 old members and one current member of the club set off on the 18th for a couple of days diving off Plymouth with Aquanauts to do the JEL, Scylla, Persier and Glen Strathallan. The weather on the morning of the 19th wasn't too bad, but Plymouth has a bad habit of being nice on the shore and not too good around the headland – it was the latter as we approached the shot. My breakfast made a break for it just before I jumped in down the shotline.



The Scylla was purposely sunk 2 years ago and life is gradually coming to it, a full wreck report can be found (<http://www.divernet.com/wrecks/wtour640604.shtml>) There are plenty of things to see if you like open swim-throughs, and for the trained, full wreck penetrations can take place. This dive ended after about 42 mins and provided the first sea dive of the year. 1 hour on the surface, some tea and donuts later, we dropped down the shotline to the James Egan Lane (<http://www.divernet.com/wrecks/wtour620404.shtml>), a much nicer wreck, loads of life, much more open and some great swim-throughs which are not challenging but provide you with an idea of what an older ship looks like.



With ribs sticking up, there are ample photo opportunities to be had.



There was also lots of life hiding around, with starfish aplenty and these provided another photo opportunity for those slightly unaware.



After 39 mins we surfaced to be met with more tea and biscuits before setting off for Plymouth. Both of these wrecks are well within the reach of OW divers as the upper parts are only 9-10m down and the lower parts, which are 24-28m down, can be accessed easily by AOW divers. The JEL was easily the better of the 2 dives. During the sail in, we were offered a night dive onto Mewstone Reef, I took up the offer with some others on the boat. After a quick food refuel we met back up again at

18:30 for a 19:15 ropes off and out to the reef. This was my first night dive and it was great. No pictures but there are memories, sea urchins (the first I had seen in UK waters), the size of footballs, a thornback ray, half a dozen spotted dogfish and plenty of other moving things including some brightly coloured wrasse...! After 60 mins at an average depth of 22m, we sent the DMSB up and wound in. Once on the surface we noticed that the swell had picked up, but despite this, we were quickly picked up by the skipper and set off.

The following morning the weather had not improved, so we aborted the dives onto the Persier and Glen Strathallan and completed 2 dives within the harbour. The first, a wall dive down to 35m, but with the majority of the time being spent at 20-25m, loads to see in the 45 mins we were down. The second was a fast drift dive around Drake's Island. Although I could see the current running around the buoy when we were dropped off, I had no idea it was going to be that fast at the bottom; despite being a strong swimmer, I could only just hold station when pointing into the current waiting for my buddy to come back with the scallops (I was bag holding). After 40 minutes, we ended the dive and brought up about 10kg of scallops. Top tips, do not drop a 10kg bag of scallops in gm of water...

Shame about the weather on the second day, but the first day made it, The JEL especially is worth the trip down and the Scylla will be better once nature has taken grasp. It was a good couple of days which Dougie, the skipper, made enjoyable. I would have no doubts in recommending Aquanauts as an operator to use from Plymouth.

Final Thought...

This is a new column which I would like to introduce during which I will provide a point to think upon; something which some people take for granted but might have more implications than at first appears.

How many people start a dive saying that they will end it with 50 bar? What does 50 bar mean and does it apply in all situations?

During some of my recent training it became apparent that I didn't know what that 50 bar meant, could it get from the bottom with a buddy on my long hose/octopus and from what depth did it apply. Below is a brief summary of what I was taught and hopefully it will give you something to think about when you are preparing for a dive and deciding what the end pressure should be.

The worst case scenario is diving with someone and they have an Out of Air situation which necessitates ending the dive and surfacing with both divers breathing off the same tank. Assuming that the majority of recreational divers have a Surface Air Consumption (SAC) of about 20L/min in a non-stressful situation, in an emergency this could be increased. 30L/min is not an unreasonable SAC in this case. However, you have 2 divers breathing off the same cylinder, so the SAC is really 60L/min. Following the PADI recreational limit for AOW of 30m we could try and work out a worst case ascent profile and therefore the amount of gas used. If the divers having the emergency took 1 minute to sort it out, then

ascended at 10m/min to the surface and did their 3 min safety stop, it would take them 6 mins to reach the surface in a controlled fashion. To work out the amount of gas they would use, we need to work out the average depth. In this example, the average depth could be taken as 10m as approximately half of the time is spent above that, and half below. The pressure that 10m equates to is 2 ATA. Finally, we now know how long it will take to ascend (6 mins), how much gas we are breathing per minute (60L) and what the pressure equivalent is (2 ATA), so we can work out the total gas required to get from 30m to the surface, $6 \times 60 \times 2 = 720\text{L}$. If we have a 15L cylinder, this would equate to 48 bar, or 50 to make the SPG easier to read, that's fine. However, if we have a 12L, then we would need 60 bar. If your SAC is 25L/min, then maybe the total gas required would be 840L or 70 bar in a 12L. What about those who dive with a 3L pony safe in the knowledge that it will get them out of trouble in all instances?

This 'pause for thought' isn't meant as a hard and fast rule, just to make you think. The calculations are very simple and only require you to know what your SAC is, the depth you are going to and the size of your cylinder. Then you can work out what your minimum gas should be and not just take the dive guide's suggestion of 50bar... Dive safe.

Social Notices

Nothing notified but if you want to arrange something, feel free and let the committee and me know so we can publicise it.

Sales and Wants

If you want to advertise anything, on the website, email Steve Cain stevecain_diving@tiscali.co.uk.

Links and Contacts

If you need to raise an issue with the club committee, contact Lesley lesley.s@cotswoldwireless.co.uk and she will put your issues or questions to the committee.

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

Website Issues:
stevecain_diving@tiscali.co.uk.

Newsletter Issues:
gareth.lock@imagesoflife.co.uk

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

Jason Costello Diving:
<http://www.jcscuba.co.uk>

Website of the Month:
<http://www.gasdiving.co.uk/pages/misc/Nitrox.htm>