



C.D.A.A. Newsletter
GUIDELINES

No: 67 - DECEMBER 1998



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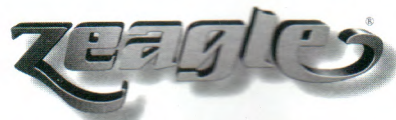
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Editorial

This is the last issue of Guidelines for 1998. I would like to thank all who have contributed over the last year and especially thank Sabine Schnittger for her help producing the magazine. Again this issue we have some great articles but unfortunately we are still desperately short of photos (especially photos suitable for front cover).

I hope everyone has Great Christmas (and a safe one) and gets to do alot of diving now that the sun has decided to come out of its winter hibernation. *MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.*

Glenn O'Connell
Editor

ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES

Members wishing to submit articles for inclusion in guidelines can do so in the following manner:

- Send articles & photos via post to:
The Editor, Glenn O'Connell,
P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006.
Email to glenn@vds.net.au
- Any files for inclusion should be saved in "TEXT" or "ASCII" format. Hardcopy should also be provided wherever possible.

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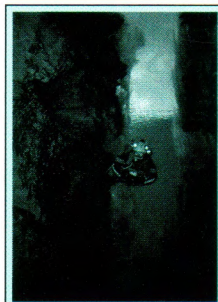
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GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, Glenn O'Connell, P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006. All articles and submissions shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited material. Articles and information may be reproduced without prior permission provided reprints are accredited to the authors and GUIDELINES. Private advertising for caving and diving equipment may be advertised free at the discretion of the Editor. Opinions expressed in GUIDELINES are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the C.D.A.A.

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THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

LAMAR HIRES

Editor's note: Lamar Hires has held a number of positions in the NACD/NS, including that of Standards Director. In this article he comments on regulator standards when cave diving with manifolds.

One of the long running battles in cave country has been which hose to breathe. Should the diver breathe from the long hose and hand it to a distressed diver, or should he breathe from the short hose and hand off the stowed long hose so he is never under the stress of switching regulators during an emergency? I have been on both sides of the fence on this and recently decided for myself which is best for me. I breathe from the long hose and hand it off in an emergency. I have listened to all the arguments for both ways. Both sides can pose a good argument to justify the preference but the proof is in application and practice in the field.

The "S" drill is taught during cavern and cave classes as part of the pre-dive checks. This is when the divers deploy the long hose and simulate an out of air situation. You can see this going on at dive sites. It is easy to pick the students from the non-students. I NEVER SEE CAVE DIVERS PRACTICE THIS AFTER CLASS. This brings up the most important issue. Can you assist a dive buddy in a real emergency without creating more problems? Many of you probably answered this with a yes but are you sure. Most likely not! Unless you actually practice a skill you can not become proficient with it. This is a statement of fact. You may think it is easy to share air after doing it in the basin or the main passage at Devil's Ear but could you negotiate the Half Hitch restriction in Madison sharing air in zero visibility? If you answered yes, try it then call me.

The argument for breathing the short hose and handing off the long hose leads to some configuration problems as well. What to do

with all that hose? We complicated matters years ago by insisting on the 7' hose at cave level over the 5' hose that had been the standard for years. The longer hose was a compromise to deal with DPV use and restrictions in zero visibility. Most people that breathe from the short hose secure the long hose with surgical tubing or some similar material. The hose is usually laid along the cylinders or nested at the manifold and can be secured to the side of the back plate as well. Many times the hose does not lay flat until it has been trained over a number of dives. There is no consistency among dive buddies to handle this excess hose length. Before each dive the hose is carefully placed in its nest in the hope that it will not be used during the dive. The students using this method are the ones spending more time in the basin during class securing the hose after the "S" drill. At some sites this is acceptable but at most recreational sites it is not. Other divers have to wait and sometimes watch visibility drop because of the surface activity. The local swimmers start to get annoyed. Remember they live around the springs, we are visitors. When divers enter the water the swimmers stop their activity to watch and give us space to get going. If too much time is spent on the surface the natives get restless. This leads to the issue of practice. These divers soon learn after class to not mess with the hose. Store it and leave it unless absolutely needed. This can lead to more serious problems. The hose may not deploy properly, it may be caught on d-rings like a reel clipped to a d-ring and holding the hose so it can't be deployed. These things are forgotten and not considered of any importance because how often do you have to deploy the long hose in an emergency. These things that happen are of no concern because the emergency didn't happen. Deploying the hose is not practiced on the dive because you will need assistance to put it away.



Breathing the long hose has certain advantages over the short hose for the buddy. The hose is wrapped under the shoulder and light canister then across the chest, around the back of the neck and over the shoulder. The short hose is on a neck strap for immediate access. Since the hose is wrapped the diver can check it at anytime to be confident it will deploy. This is by far the most important point of an out of air situation. Can you get the diver air quickly without having him in your face? Divers can check this on their own while swimming. No buddy assistance is needed to secure it. This promotes more practice. During class air sharing drills go much smoother when the long hose is handed off. This builds diver confidence if the memories of the exercise are positive.

I have noticed a few more things with divers breathing the long compared to those that breathe the short hose.

1) With the long hose being the primary it is of good quality and performance. There is a tendency to have a lower performance

regulator on the long hose if the diver only plans to hand it off.

2) If dive and pre-dive switches are on the regulator, it will be in the dive position when handed off.

3) The maintenance schedule of the long hose regulator is current if it's the primary. I was once given the long hose with no tie wrap on the mouthpiece. It had been serviced three months earlier and hadn't been noticed.

4) The short hose regulator is maintained and checked on a regular basis, since its only user is the owner.

I think it is time for continuity on this important buddy team issue. I feel this is more than the freedom for personal preference, it's the safety of the team whether it's a team of seasoned divers or a team that is making it's first dive together. Ask yourself "When was the last time I deployed the long hose?". If you can't remember than ask yourself why? If anyone wants to argue this with me I suggest we do it in the water since that is where it counts. Call me let's go diving.

A (PRACTICAL) BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CAVE DIVING IN FLORIDA

Rob Smith (2615) & Sabine Schnittger (2654)

Step 1: Save for your trip..... \$\$\$\$

The dive sites we visited are located in the Northern part of Florida. This is not your average 5 star resort area. Thank goodness. Prices are reasonable. Airfares vary, so shop around the airlines. Best price in September 1998 was with United Airlines. A\$1549 economy, Melbourne - Jacksonville - Melbourne. Car rental is the next biggest expense. Best price was found on the internet. US\$368 for 7 days includes all fees charges plus two insurances to cover damage to the rented car and to cover damage to other peoples car/property. Personal liability is covered by travel insurance. You need to buy all the insurances. It's a very litigious society. Food is going to be well covered by allowing US\$20 per day. A typical inexpensive meal I remember was at the Texas Roadhouse. US\$11 for a 10 oz. Ribeye meal with side salad and US\$3 for great 12oz frozen Margaritas. Accommodation in two bedroom air conditioned mobile home, US\$35 per day split between the occupants. Hire of twin 104 cu. ft. manifolded steel tanks was US\$15 per day. Air fills are US\$6 per dive, that's right, to fill both tanks and you won't complain about light fills (260 Bar!). Travel insurance will be less than A\$100. Dive site entry fees vary from zero to US\$18 per day, allow about US\$12 for each day diving. Petrol is incredibly cheap.

For two divers this is less than A\$2800 each for 6 days of diving (12 dives).

But what have we left out? If you don't go with someone who is familiar with the cave systems it will cost US\$100 per day for a guide. If you start buying dive gear (and this is very tempting) or you want to do some scooter dives at US\$50 per day to hire, then the cost really starts to escalate.

Step 2: Get yourself to Jacksonville, Florida

This involves a long and dreary flight to Los Angeles and some further dreary flights via Dallas/Fort Worth. Airlines flying to and within the US permit special increased weight allowances - 2 x 32kg which is enough for one dive tub and a suitcase (double check with your travel agent).

What to do beforehand

Get reasonably fit. Getting into the holes is literally like a walk in the park, but then you have currents to deal with. Some springs have strong outflows, and if you are not breathing right you will have headaches to contend with.

Practice the lingo. Speak slowly, sap "you'all" and answer in the affirmative with ahaaaa"

What time of year to go

This is more difficult to answer than you might think. The three major rivers in the area can flood quickly, bringing tannic water into the caves resulting in their closure. They were all closed for most of the first months of this year and did not clear till May. Conditions in mid September were good. You need to get up to date information nearer to the time you want to make airline bookings and then keep your fingers crossed. The internet is the best source of this information.

What to take

Your usual cave diving gear. A second battery for your primary light. You should assume you will need 2 hours burn time twice a day. Don't forget your CDAA certification card. Remember that US cave diving is generally done with manifolds and rented tanks are set up in this way. Some of Florida cave diving involves more or less substantial amounts of decompression, so you will need a computer, and a Nitrox ticket helps. Also, US power supplies are 110 Volt supply. Dive Rite chargers adjust to this. Others may require you to hire a battery charger or buy one

(Schummacher 12 Volt, 1.5amp at US\$27 from Wal Mart stores in the automotive section) (take suitable connector and wire joiners with you). 7mm wetsuits are (just about) ok, although you will get cool during decompression. Take one biggish reel (100m) to run from the surface to the fixed line. Think about jump reels, you may do more jumps than you are used to doing in our caves. Don't forget crotch/scooter tow strap if you think you might want to try scootering.

What to do next

Pick up your hire a car and head off in the direction of Lake City and Live Oak (about half-way between Jacksonville and Tallahassee), making sure to drive on the right side of the road. There are many car rental firms in the vicinity of the airport and it is worth shopping around before you make a booking. It makes sense to acquire a reasonably detailed road map of Florida, (Florida Atlas & Gazetteer published by DeLorme) you can most certainly use it to find your way to dive sites.

Step 3: Set up a base in the Lake City/Live Oak area

A good option is a little backwater called Luraville, 5 minutes drive from Peacock Springs and not far from at least a dozen dive sites. Luraville has one general store, but two dive shops, both offer accommodation, air, gear hire, guides, spares and most things a cave diver might ever want to buy. Like true Florida folks, we stayed in a mobile home (organised by Bill Rennaker) in the middle of the bush and had a fine time. Bill has a style all of his own, and he went out of his way to make us feel welcome. If you want gear at a good price then this is the place to buy it (<http://www.sidemount.com>). The alternative is a large and well-equipped dive shop - Dive Outpost (<http://www.diveoutpost.com>) with an air filling station that is worth a visit in its own right. Dive Outpost offer diver accommodation on site.

Further afield

Live Oak, Lake City, Branford and Mayo are also good options and offer plenty of budget accommodation. Another alternative is to stay closer to Ginnie Springs, say in the High Springs area.

Where and what to eat

After you have been through the fry-up options at the Luraville general store you may want to venture further. Do not ask to drink tea, this is an unusual and complex request. Do not say that you are Australian. This will bring on much questioning. However, all the little towns around the area have little or large diners and restaurants, mostly a compromise between a fast-food shop and a restaurant. If you are staying in Luraville, going out to dinner will involve some driving (5 to 25 minutes).

Step 4: Go cave diving

You have a big range of choices here. However, some words of advice first:

1. Make sure your skills are up to scratch and take it easy. These caves are generally penetration level sites, so you need to know what you are doing. You will need to cope with darkness, distance, isolation, silt and depth. In some places, the lines are old, hard to see and badly laid. You must keep your eyes on the line. You will need to be able to deal with jumps and complex dive plans. There are good reasons why a few hundred divers have lost their lives in these caves.

2. Remember that you are dealing with springs and syphons. On the whole you will be diving into springs; this means an air and time 'bonus' on the way out. If you are heading off into a siphon, you need to be ultra-conservative in your air management. The strength of the currents taking you in can be deceptive.

3. Talk to your friendly dive shop. During part of the year, site access depends on rainfall in the southern Georgia catchment area that feeds the Suwannee, Santa Fe and Withlacoochee rivers, so re-confirm conditions at a local dive shop on arrival.

4. Get maps of the caves. You will definitely need these. Local Florida dive shops have some but you really need to get your own before leaving Australia. Some poor quality (low resolution) maps can be downloaded from the internet (<http://members.aol.com/laceymanor/divesites.html>) but the best idea is to contact CDAA members who have dived there and get some decent quality maps.

Peacock Springs (22 metres)

This is a very large and beautiful system of over 28,000 ft. with numerous entrances and exits. It can get pretty busy at weekends, but once you are off the beaten main tracks, there are many great passages to explore. These caves are quite shallow with fairly low flow and they really are ideal for your first Florida dives. Entrance to the park costs US\$5 for a day of diving.

Cow Spring (34 metres)

This is a very pretty dive. The restriction at the start of the upstream dive is very tight. Part way in, you will find a ski rope. It's the only cave line I have seen that you are meant to pull yourself in on to beat the current. This site is owned by one of the cave diver training organisations (National Speleological Society - Cave Diving Section) and entry is free.

Telford Spring (22 metres)

This is a beautiful site next to the Suwannee River. The locals use this spring as their swimming hole and it can be crowded at the weekends. The dive goes from the spring, past Telford Sink and Terrapin Sink and on through every imaginable type of cave terrain. Canyons, vertical and horizontal fissures and breakdown areas.

Bonnet Spring (13 metres)

Access only with guide approved by park ranger. Huge bottom time is achievable due to shallow depths. This is most definitely Penetration level. Very silty and single file nearly all the way with some interesting squeezes through restrictions.

Ginnie Springs (32 metres)

Ginnie is a professionally run site on private property next to the Santa Fe River with camp sites a large filling station and very well stocked dive shop. Cost per cave diver per day is US\$18. Drive your car to the Devil's System spring run, just a few hundred metres past the dive shop. Enter the system at the Devil's Ear (or the Devil's Eye). Expect to encounter cave diver students under instruction. You will need to use pull and glide technique and stay close to the walls to avoid the worst of the out flowing current.

Little River (33 metres)

Another site with very strong flow. This crystal clear spring is next to the Suwannee River on public land so entry is free. Without staging your dives will be to the Florida Room via the Serpentine Tunnel or the Merry Go Round tunnel. The circuit around the two tunnels make a great second dive.

Madison Blue Spring (33 metres)

A well maintained private property. US\$16 per day of diving. The spring runs a short distance to the Withlacoochee River. The popular dives are the Godzilla Room circuit and the fabulous trek to the Court Room via Potter's Delight and Rock Horror.

Falmouth Spring (43 metres)

You are definitely following in Sheck Exley's footsteps here. Falmouth goes upstream to Cathedral Canyon which was Sheck's property. This is a deep, dark and long cave which is not dived often, and you will think about whether it was worth it during deco (the answer is yes).

Step 4: Cheer yourself up on the way home

There are some great stores to go gear shopping on the way back to the airport (assuming you haven't spent all your money beforehand and you have a few hours to spare). Go via Gainesville and stop off at Lloyd bailey's Scuba at 3500-F NW 97th Blvd. Gainesville (exit 77 on 175). Check out their prices on the internet (<http://www.lloydbaileysscuba.com>).

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PENETRATION COURSE OCTOBER '98

BY PAUL AXTON 2826



*L-R Back Row: Craig Challow, Greg Bulling, Paul Axton, Ian Smith, Greg Ward, Martin Flannery
Front: Glen Harrison, Lorraine Hardman, Marie Zoogood, Rodney Gange
Instructors: Max Marriot Linda Claridge, Steve Sturgeon*

The final penetration course for 1998 was held over two weekends, 3rd, 4th and 5th of October and 10th & 11th of October at the Jubilee Holiday Park. The course was co-ordinated by Steve Sturgeon, the associations National Director, and was attended by eight hopeful candidates. The program was conducted by Glen Harrison with Max Marriot, Greg Bulling, Linda Claridge and Steve Sturgeon completing the instructional team.

Saturday morning saw the usual introductions followed by the necessary paperwork and an outline of how the program would progress over the next five days of instruction and assessment. Theory lectures were the starting point of our journey, specifically dealing with new equipment and procedures that we would be confronted with in a penetration

environment. The time came to move outside for some hands on practice with guidelines jump reels and personal markers, sounded easy enough until we had to do it as buddy teams with eyes closed and guidelines strung up like macramé across the lawn area. Of course it wouldn't be Mt Gambler without wind and rain so we quickly retrieved all our lines and moved to the covered BBQ area for land drills in fixed line entanglement and cutting.

Learning to dive involves getting wet so our next stop was Gouldens Waterhole, here we were given the opportunity to practice underwater some new skills we were introduced to earlier on land. After a very educational session it was time for a quick evening meal then back to Jubilee for more theory. Sunday morning saw

another trip to Gouldens. This in-water session saw the candidates deal with the infamous stress management exercise and practice lost line search techniques. Sunday afternoon was more theory including communications, dealing with restrictions and DPV's. Sunday evening was finished off with an advanced dive planning workshop.

Monday morning bright and early back at Gouldens for our pre-assessment dive to show that we can put our new skills into use by following a fixed line circuit that has several stations where various skills are demonstrated. The skills included: negotiate a four way intersection, pass through a restriction with all gear in place, install a jump, carry out a lost line search blacked out, identify and retrieve your jump reel blacked out, carry out a forced mask exchange, re-negotiate the restriction with gear removed and swim it back to the start in a controlled manner. Monday afternoon was finished off with a theory review followed by the written exam and a communication exam.

The second Saturday saw all candidates progress to supervised site dives. Due to the number of candidates the group was split into two with half going to Iddlebidy (5L250) and the others to the Pines. The supervised dives involved showing the instructors that you could perform various skills in a real environment, skills this time included following a fixed line, installing jumps at designated points, negotiating a restriction with vision and blacked out while at all times following safety protocols and maintaining proper buddy contact.

Sunday the 10th and our final supervised dive took place in Engelbrechts West. This dive would allow us to show that we could negotiate a tight restriction and use the proper fixed line signal protocols. We were also required to follow a specific dive plan that included maintaining buddy

contact with light signals and carry out a mask exchange. As a buddy team we then had to travel along the fixed line to the restriction using only one back up light for the team, we then independently passed through the restriction using the correct line signal protocol once more. All eight candidates successfully passed the penetration course. The association now has eight new penetration rated divers Craig Challen, Martin Flannery, Maree Toogood, Lorraine Hardman, Rodney Gange, Ian Smith, Greg Ward, Paul Axton.

I found the penetration course both challenging and rewarding. It allowed me to extend my personal limits and has given me new goals to aim for in the future. For anyone contemplating a penetration course in the future my personal advise is jump in and do it, but to ensure that you get the maximum benefit from your investment put in some effort now. Talk to penetration divers, read as much as you can but most of all go diving. Fine tune your buoyancy and trim, start wearing all the pieces of equipment that you need for penetration diving on every dive so that it becomes part of you. That way you will be able to concentrate on the new skills that you will need to complete the course.



1998 GRAND TOUR de NULLABOR

by Paul Hosie

Intrepid adventurers that we are, we had two weeks planned - a full cave diving tour of the Nullarbor covering all the CDAA certified sites, and then some!!

Craig & I left Perth Thursday afternoon with everything except the kitchen sink. We stopped at Kalgoorlie overnight to hook up with Karl and load the sink onto the trailer. A 5am start had us on the road fully kitted and kaboodled, stopping for fuel at Norseman (last of the cheap fuel!) and then brekky at Balladonia. We made efforts to contact Plains Caver legend 'Mad Max' there - to no avail. He spots new Nullarbor caves from his ultralight and marks their location by GPS - wotalife!

More fuel at Madura on our way to Eucla & some on road repairs for a broken fan belt had us safely at Eucla, checking in with the local police before heading out to Weebubbie. Fortuitously, the WA SES were conducting some rescue ropework training the following day at a nearby cave for the local police. We were invited to meet them and join in with the training - we gladly accepted the offer and headed to Weebubbie to set up camp.

Toys

Karl had several new toys for this trip, the first of which was his lowering frame - the design unashamedly plagiarised but using lighter materials. The frame was used for lowering and hauling gear up & down the long pitches of the caves we visited - the trip wouldn't have been possible without it. The next two toys worked together pretty closely to provide Nitrox gas mixes - the 250bar monster 02 cylinder and the sexy portable mixing panel (one has to make one's own entertainment out bush!!). A little bush mechanic know-how and local help was required to improvise a HP fitting and a tool remodelled so we could tap the bottle. The elevated oxygen levels (reduced nitrogen loading) allowed us to complete our dives with additional safety - particularly as a

physically demanding climb with gear was inevitable after every dive. A highly recommended approach for diving the Nullarbor where safety is of paramount concern - given the remoteness and distance/time to the nearest facilities in Adelaide.

Early the next morning we took a casual stroll down to the water and did a big fluffy tour dive of Weebubbie - gave Craig a feel for it, being his first time in a Nullarbor cave. It was good to be back - the immensity of the Railway Tunnel and Superdome are too easily mis-memorised, I think the brain has a bit of trouble maintaining an accurate, perspective - correct picture - you just have to go back & do it! Following the dive, we headed up, grabbed a bite & headed into Eucla to meet our hosts. They took us to Kestrel Cave which has a 50m pitch on one side of the doline, with the mouth of the caves main passage directly underneath. We all abseiled down and walked to the end of the cave which ended in a large dome - easily 30m in diameter. We prussicked back up the rope we had descended after some brief instruction on the frogkicking style of using Jumars. We were suitably impressed with the ease of the technique & I envisage lots of new toys for the next trip!!

Off the Beaten Track

We were given mud map directions to the Chowilla Doline/Abrakurrie Cave/Kutowalla Doline/Winbirra Cave area. All these enormous features are found along a N-S line over 9km long with Chowilla in the North and Winbirra in the South. The 'line' generally consists of a 70m wide, 15m deep trench - the sole surface indications of a vast collapsed tunnel. Abrakurrie Cave is possibly a short stretch of this that has not (yet ?) collapsed - it really is a must see for anyone travelling through or visiting Weebubbie, I consider it as one of the natural wonders of Australia. It is popularly

claimed as the largest chamber in the southern hemisphere - and you won't hear any arguments from us!! We also visited Winbirra as it is one of the 12 caves (proper) on the Nullarbor that leads to water. That's not many out of the 2,300-odd currently recorded on The Plain.

We climbed and scabbled down over 60 vertical metres into the gaping mouth of Winbirra cave. Down another 30m to the bottom of the talus slope we found ourselves surrounded by an immense dome, with beautiful soft light illuminating it as reflected from the rock beneath. Dozens of Swifts whizzed through the air of the cave to nestle on their precarious rock ledges. At the furthest edge of the dome, passable cracks in the rock meandered down 10m or so to a small (12m x 5m) entrance lake of crystal clear, warm water.

Thus encouraged, we returned the following day with some lightweight dive gear and checked it out. This is where Craig forgot his weight belt and had to improvise with some chain scrounged up from the back of the vehicle - using a shackle and some cable ties to take care of the dangly bits (well, not all of them!). Needless to say, the cave doesn't go, but it was exciting all the same. Approx 15m penetration and 10m depth summed up the dive, with the way ahead well choked by boulders.

Back to Weebubbie for some more dives and we had pretty well dived it to our satisfaction. During this time we got to see spaghetti man in action (needless to say that one persons reeling technique has since improved!), followed by a practical demonstration on waste containment in a cave environment through selective use of a plastic bag. This was made all the more embarrassing for the distressed toy-man due to the unexpected arrival of visitors to oversee production! It was too late to cancel the order,

so the matter was delivered, signed and sealed (did I get that round the wrong way?!).

Go West

By now, we were ready for the next challenge:

Tommy Grahams! Exiting Weebubbie, we bade farewell to the Eucla copshop - everyone visiting the caves of the area is asked to do the same on arrival and departure - too easy and they're a very friendly, knowledgeable bunch. At Tommy's, another curious pattern of brain behaviour was identified - the ability to block pain and remember only the good bits - ie. large lake, warm blue water and beautiful underwater passage. Whatever happened to the bits between cave entry and arrival at water? Isn't the brain supposed to help you learn

from your mistakes? Until we got to Tommy's we were running a check sheet of who carried an extra tank for who at different points. Well, Craig was at a decided disadvantage by this time and both Karl & I felt it was time for some compensation. We happily showed Craig the entrance, helped get all the gear to the start point and left him to it with strict instructions not to wake us until the gear was set up next to the water! Hey, it's nice to dream - and it would only have been fair since the nee -Vans had carried all his gear down into caves in Vanuatu (we would have happily paid \$10 each for the day!). Near the superbly blue entrance lake the rock ceiling continues down into the water and we traversed the Inner Sanctum (high CO2 chamber) breathing our regs as we went and then dived the very beautiful far side. A fascinating effect was observed at around 20m depth - the water became 'shimmery' and intensely blue - a pronounced halocline zone with associated changes in refraction causing the effect. The cave walls at that depth are also adorned with large bubbles of crystalline



Tommy Graham's Aftermath

growth - all very interesting and probably indicating a mineralised thermal spring source from below. A lazy meander back with a hop skip & jump across the Inner Sanctum and checking rock full of echinoderms (fossilised sea urchin shells) and their spines finished off a couple of wonderful dives. It was at this point that caution was thrown to the still cave air and . . .

STOP PRESS! Australian Free Cave Diving Record Claimed.

In a revolutionary and unprecedented move, Paul Hosie consolidated years of underwater experience to achieve a new subterranean free diving record to a depth of 11m for 40 seconds in Tommy Grahams entrance lake.

We got out of the cave (just) that evening completely stuffed and prepped for our next underwater foray. It was also about this time that it started pouring down - it rained continuously for 3 days and we became concerned about accessing our camp at Tommy's. The Cocklebiddy Roadhouse staff helped us terrifically by drying our towels and a doona that got wet. We had a couple excellent meals there as well, but nothing to compare with the a la carte camp menu - a large engel freezer allowed us to eat precooked & frozen meals the entire trip. Also, Karl's Pancake kitchen was a big hit and he's considering setting up a stall there during future trips - sure to be a winner - no?! He could certainly make a killing by cashing in on those East Coast Hordes!

Trip Wind-Up

A day of easy diving in Murra-El-Elevyn was a relief following Tommy's, though the water temperature difference was quite dramatic - 16C compared with 23C in Tommy's which is quite interesting given that the caves are only separated by 16km as the crow flies! Moving all our gear to Cocklebiddy Cave over some very wet tracks brought us to an amazing sight - a creek running through the surface doline and running to the cave entrance. The creek culminated in a waterfall over the entrance lip and down into the cave - a remarkable sight,

though my camera was all sealed up in a tube for our dive here. We set up the lowering frame and headed to the roadhouse for a nice hot meal. The next morning, fully primed at Karl's Pancake Kitchen and encouraged by a spectacular rainbow over Tommy's, we did two trips down to the water and set up our gear. A newly constructed and proven dry tube carried our lunches and my camera safely 750m underwater to the first rockpile. Due to the rain having washed so much mud & silt into the cave, the viz for the first 3-400m was pretty atrocious. My journal records the experience: "We left at 1206 and swam through the murky water, viz -10m. Cleared a couple hundred metres in. BIG Tunnel! Muddy floor first half, then water cleared and floor turned to rock slabs. Ceiling very shallow mostly 4-6m. Swim along first air chamber then duck under -50m to 2nd air chamber and surface swim to First Rockpile."

A smorgasbord lunch and some happy snappies with a little climb over the rocks to check out the 'far side' saw our time effectively whittled away. It was awesome to consider, as we sat by the edge of the 'far side' lake, that the tunnel continued underwater another 2km to Toad Hall and then 3km to the 'end' beyond that - staggering! We headed back and Battery Man came to the fore - supporting his fellow divers with additional amperage and staying power! We walked out of the cave with a full pack each and into the glory of a jewel bedecked night sky - the rain front had passed and the stars were shining brilliantly. Looking up at the Milky Way from beneath the caves entrance was like looking up at a ceiling of chandeliers in firelight. We retired that night well and truly exhausted, not only from the days activities but the joints were starting to whinge after two weeks of continual torment!

This vast, forsaken land with its subterranean wonders is like a magnet for those thirsty for its solitude. As we headed home, aching, sore & tired we began earnestly planning the next trip - as you invariably do! Needless to say (so I'll say it anyway) - I'll be back!!

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

delivered 1998 AGM

The National Committee's strategic focus in 1997/98 has been to:

1. Consolidate developments and rationalise operations in areas of core business.
2. Develop new diving related initiatives in the areas of research and development.

In contrast to the period immediately proceeding this term of office there has been no change to the structure of the National Committee. The progress made during this period ratifies the structural changes voted in at the last Annual General Meeting and highlights the cooperation and willingness of Directors to work together often outside their own areas of responsibility to achieve the best results for the Association.

As reported in the last issue of Guidelines significant progress in a broad range of areas, many of which have been long overdue has only been possible through the dedicated assistance of a very small number of faithful volunteers.

The National Committee wishes to thank all non elected officers and volunteers who during the course of the year have supported and the Association and directors.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

During the course of 1997/98 budget and expenditure reports were published in Guidelines. Expenditure was kept within the budget and was about \$2000 less than the previous year. The net assets of the Association increased from \$37,239.81 to \$63,052.72 an increase of \$25,812.91.

This forms a solid base for moving the Association forward into new areas over the next term.

OTHER KEY POINTS INCLUDE:

- CDAA products returned a profit of \$1141.76. This amount differs from that reported in the last issue of Guidelines due to the late arrival of a cheque for product sales.
- Guidelines advertising is comparable to the 1996/97 net figures after bad debts are taken into account. The high bad debt figure is due to invoicing procedures during 1996/97.
- Current and relevant training materials represent a comprehensive and integral part of the insurance arrangements entered into in 1996/97. To this end the Association purchased the right to course materials the cost was \$1950. The decision to purchase was made in May 1997 by the former Committee. The Association replaced course materials produced in 1991 at a cost of \$10,000.
- The agreement between Aqua Tech and the CDAA lapsed on 30 June 1998. The agreement was in two parts covering (1) Guidelines advertising revenue and (2) fundraising revenue. Aqua Tech receives a commission for net fundraising, however whilst the accounts indicate total revenue raised and total commission paid, they do not indicate Aqua Tech's overheads in raising those funds. These are met directly by Aqua Tech, even if no funds are raised! The accounts record revenue raised on an actual basis (ie.

when the revenue is due), the commission payments on the other hand are paid when the revenue is received (ie. on a cash basis). The CDAA is planning to renegotiate a similar agreement.

INTERNET USE BY CDAA DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS

The use of the list referred to as the 'CDAA email list' for publishing CDAA material and answering frequently asked member's questions would be a good tool. However it is not an exclusive list with unrestricted membership therefore this list is not appropriate for discussions of the Associations accounts or policies. Each director is contactable by phone or email and if contacted directly will wherever possible provide a reply.

MAPPING AND RESEARCH

The CDAA has re-established the associations commitment to research and mapping. Gary Barclay has assumed the role of mapping and Research Manager. Consideration is being given to liability, ownership of intellectual property, record keeping of completed work, training and participation opportunities for Association members. The CDAA is pleased with members' response.

A proposal is being finalised to complete the Black Hole Mapping Project. The project will require some deep dives and the use of mixed gas to ensure that dives are carried out safely. When the project is completed it will provide valuable information on the use of alternative gas mixes and diving techniques in fresh water sinkholes and a comprehensive report and map of the Black Hole.

SITE ACCESS

During the year we have done a lot of work protecting the interests of landowners and improving the credibility of the Association when dealing with the landowners representative body. This has seen a number of key policies implemented with the support of this forum.

A number of clean up and improvement projects were carried out during the year, these include the 'Go for Broke' weekend organised by John Dalla Zuanna, Engelbrecht's clean-up and a number of other smaller projects coordinated by Trevor Wynniatt with the assistance of members of the ADDICT dive club.

A number of research projects were undertaken by other organisations with the support of the CDAA, for example continuous water monitoring in Goulden's, samples taken from many other holes. Stromatalite survey by Mia Thurgate and ADI project at Kilsby's. We have also co-ordinated the removal of certain objects from sites by the underwater response group. Members should be aware that any untoward discoveries, eg. guns should leave them in place and contact the Sites Access director who will notify the appropriate authorities.

Members are reminded that when diving dual rated sites they should be mindful of the limitations of their certification levels and dive accordingly. Bakers Cave will reopen end of this month after a 2 year closure see next Guidelines for access arrangements.

We are continuing to access sites in NSW, WA etc. Thanks to interstate members that make this possible. We are continuing to

negotiate access to sites in other states. We have some new arrangements for diving the shaft which will be ratified at this afternoons Directors meeting. As with Bakers Cave these will be published in the next Guidelines.

Access negotiations for Tank Cave are still proceeding and I will deal with these shortly.

In light of our new insurance obligations I would like to remind members that the installation and modification of any fixed lines in CDAA sites, must first be approved by the National Committee. The Installation of temporary lines in sites such as Murra-El-Elevyn must be removed at termination of diving activities.

TANK CAVE

Tank Cave is Australia's premier cave diving site, it represents the pinnacle of divers' goals and is focus of CDAA advanced cave diver training. It is regularly dived by about 25 of the Associations members.

It is an advanced dive like no other in Australia, hence a controlled access system with on site guides was implemented. This allowed access for the most experienced CDAA divers.

Due to numerous member complaints and grievances in relation to the application of the Tank Cave access system and its failure to satisfy the insurer's basic requirements which do not allow the CDAA to offer the landowner, Mr Dycer public indemnity insurance.

If the Association is not able to control its members' diving activities in Tank Cave public indemnity insurance will not be

offered under its policy. Furthermore under the former arrangements the extent of coverage was debatable.

Eager to resolve these issues the directors called an emergency meeting with Phil Prust and Chris Brown. This meeting was held on 21 May 1998. The key agreements included:

1. removal of the Tank Cave Committee and the appointment of Phil Prust as the Tank Cave Access Manager. In this position Phil was responsible for:
 - developing and implementing an accident management plan and ensuring all dive supervisors are familiar with its operation.
 - developing a full dive brief.
 - assessing all applications (new and renew) for diving in the Tank Cave and ensuring compliance with CDAA and landowner requirements.
 - developing a strategy enabling divers to progress with experience through the cave.
2. dive supervisors to carry professional indemnity insurance.
3. research and mapping to cease pending development of a policy to be included in the CDAA Standards and procedures Manual. Phil advised that Richard McDonald would prepare the mapping component.
4. solo diving to cease pending inclusion in the associations insurance policy.
5. all documentation relating to monies collected/spent to be provided to the Business Director
6. all diving applications to be forwarded to the Records Officer.
7. Phil to commence negotiations on behalf of the CDAA with Mr. Dycer to

increase the number of dive supervisors and to increase access.

This agreement established the criteria under which the current insurance policy was negotiated and is now in place.

The new insurance arrangements require the Association to specify to the insurer the rules, standards and agreements with landowners which govern diving activities and to implement new procedures where there are none or where responsibility is not clear. This is a fundamental requirement of the new arrangement and failure on the part of the Association to meet, comply or operate under the provisions of the agreement may prejudice the insurance cover for both the Association and or the landowners. This process was straight forward for most sites, however at Tank Cave and the Shaft where access is managed and controlled by landowner appointed guides the process has been more problematic. For example, the current role of guides is such that it is not always apparent when a guide is acting on behalf of the Association or the landowner. It is therefore difficult for the Association to demonstrate control over members' diving activities.

Despite the agreement of 21st May and the insurer's requirements the inability to agree and implement appropriate practices and procedures resulted in Phil suspending diving in Tank Cave from July 1998.

In early August Mr. Dycer advised through Phil that he wished the matter resolved by August 20. It was at this time that the National Committee began talking directly to Mr. Dycer. On 13 September at a meeting between the

directors Phil and Chris, Mr. Dycer laid down his access requirements: 'no diving without a conditional lease and an annual payment of \$10,000'.

This 'lease' approach would reduce the landowners risk as compared to an indemnity agreement and places all liability and control for the cave on its manager, the Association. It clarifies the role of guides and enables the associations public indemnity insurance. The Association currently administers this type of lease and supports continuing negotiations with Mr Dycer in relation to the lease conditions and rent.

Subsequent negotiations with Mr Dycer have taken place and it now seems likely that a lease may be put in place which will result in access increasing three fold. The access system being negotiated will require a payment per dive. This is likely to be around \$10.

The CDAA cannot return to the former access arrangements on the grounds of equitable access, liability and insurance. The former arrangements are not an option Mr. Dycer will consider. Whilst some concerns have been brought to the National Committee's attention, generally directors have received overwhelming support for the position it has taken in this matter.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The National committee is concerned at the volume of work undertaken by some volunteers, and it is obvious that should these members decide they are unable to continue, then finding a replacement will be a very difficult if not impossible task.

This is compounded by ever increasing administrative and legal requirements, cost pressures on existing services and the

need and understandable demand for new services and activities.

Also of concern is the fact that there has been a lack of interest in nominating for director positions with the last 2 years seeing 9 nominations for a possible 10 positions. It would be nice to assume that this may be a result of membership satisfaction with the job being done; but in reality it is likely that the jobs carry a lot of work requiring in some cases special skills and members are unable to give up the time required to undertake these functions.

The work is not going to go away. It is important therefore that a strategy be

developed to overcome any short or long term problems.

Possible strategies may include:

- Increasing the number of director positions and spreading the workload or
- Outsourcing or contracting out particular functions.

I would like to open this up to general discussion at this meeting but stress that strategies will be put together and circulated to members so that a survey of members sentiments can be gauged.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: SITE DIRECTOR

In the course of the last elections no nomination was received for the position of Site Access Director. Gary Barclay has kindly agreed to fill this position on a temporary basis. Therefore, in accordance with the CDAA Constitution it is proposed to fill the vacancy through an expression of interest from the general membership.

The Site Access director is an integral part of the CDAA Management and as such is required to attend at least 3 meetings of the National Committee and to take part in policy discussion and formation outside his/her portfolio. The Site Access Director will implement strategies and policies endorsed by the National Committee.

The Site Access Director represents the National Committee on matters relating to CDAA sites, this includes matters relating to access and issues arising through the CDAA's access. The Site Access Director will maintain a strong presence in the South East and will be required to attend meetings of the Landowner Liaison Forum, (normally held on weekdays in Mt Gambier).

Members interested in expressing an interest for the position should submit an application of no more than 100 words addressing this notice and the duties outlined in the CDAA Constitution. Enquiries can be directed to the Business Director and written expressions of interest should be posted to the Business Director GPO Box 1589, Adelaide SA 5001 so as to arrive no later than 31 January 1999.

Carlo Virgili, Business Director

BAKERS CAVE

Bakers Cave has re-opened. For bookings, check dates on the 'Sites' page and telephone or email Linda Claridge. Key pick-up at the Lady Nelson Tourist Centre.

Gary Barclay, Site Director

25th Anniversary

Celebrations



CDAA SITE ACCESS

Remember: Access is a privilege, not a right. Please be considerate of landowners wishes.

CN = CAVERN S = SINKHOLE C = CAVE P = PENETRATION

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DENR P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR). Smaller groups, no need. Indemnity form to be completed.
Horse & Cart Tea Tree	CN	Peter Cunningham PO Box 643, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (08) 8738 4003.
Little Blue	S	Port MacDonnell	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	Port MacDonnell	Obtain key from Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre.
Gouldens	CN	DENR	General Diving: Divers to contact DENR and notify of date and site to be dived. Divers must have the correct CDAA diving endorsement for the site. The onus of proof of CDAA status is on the diver and is provided by presentation of CDAA membership card or DENR checking the membership list supplied by CDAA. If there are problems with the diver not being a current financial member DENR will not be chasing the records officer to sort out the problem. This will be the responsibility of the diver. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DENR before access is permitted. Training: Cavern and Sinkhole. The Instructor is to notify DENR of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number. Cave and Penetration: The Instructor is to notify DENR of the date the sites are needed and is required to forward signed indemnities from each student and their membership number.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177	
Ela Elap One Tree	S	Mr. Peter Norman Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or drop in before diving. Ph: (08) 8738 5287
Swim Through	C	Valerie Earl PO Allendale 5291	Currently CLOSED pending new access arrangements.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DENR P.O. Box 1046, Mt Gambier 5290	Permit holders by phone. Be aware of delicate vegetation. Indemnity form to be completed. Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Faxed copies of cards no longer accepted when booking.
Hells Hole Pines	S	Primary Industries	Contact Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry) by mail, phone or fax to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office, Jubilee Hwy., Mount Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Forest Work Bans may be applied by PISA Forestry if forest fire danger is expected to reach extreme. Such bans also exclude the public from entering the forest. If in doubt, please check with Trevor Wynniat, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans. Permits will ONLY be issued Mon-Fri between 8.30am-4.30pm. Ph: (08) 8724 2887 (08) 8724 7179. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 Email: wynniat.trevor@pi.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
Mud Hole	P/C	S.A. (Forestry)	
	C	PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	
Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to S.A. Police	Restricted access conditions apply - refer Guidelines Issue 54. Twin tanks, maximum of 40 metres depth. Write to: 5 Ekard Ave, Warmambool 3282, 4 to 6 weeks prior to wanting to dive. Please enclose stamped self-addressed envelope. July 4/5, August 1/2, September 5/6. No animals permitted.
Shaft	S	Generally open one weekend a month L. Claridge P.O. Box 290 North Adelaide 5006	TIMETABLE FOR "THE SHAFT" GUIDES October 3/4, October 31/November 1 Nitrox as a diving mix is not allowed in the shaft. Deco mixes ATTACHED to a shot line are permissible. Divers applying to dive in the Shaft must have documented experience of a least 5 twin-tank dives.
Ten Eighty Bullock Hole	S	Mr. Colin Traeger PO Box 12,	Sundays only Mail Booking Form to Colin Traeger 2-6 weeks prior, stating names/qual. of all divers, and time slot. Please include stamped self addressed envelope. Closed October to November for shearing.
Black Hole	S	Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 26 6215	

CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
Max's Hole	C	Mr T. Edwards P.O. Box 1319 Mt Gambier 5290	Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive. Ph: (08) 8726 8277
Hann's cave	P	P & A Lasslett	Groups of four divers only apply in writing to Site Director. Limited groups will be allowed access over the summer months. The site is very delicate and therefore only limited access is available. Divers applying will be notified as to further access details. Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.
Engelbrechts - East	C	Mt Gambier Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Key must be returned by 5pm Sunday, 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in advising which groups they are diving with.
- West	P		
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Contact Linda Claridge (Records' Officer). Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Please allow 4 weeks for indemnities to be processed.
Iddlebidy (5L250)	P	Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry)	5L250 open 1st & 3rd weekend of every month. 5L290 open every weekend. Max. 4 divers per dive per day, 1 dive per day for each site. Only Penetration divers completed practical in-water cross-over. Bookings from Forestry Office - key from Lady Nelson. Contact Primary Industries SA (Forestry) by mail, phone or fax to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office, Jubilee Hwy., Mt. Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Forest Work Bans may be applied by PISA Forestry if forest fire danger is expected to reach extreme. Such bans also exclude the public from entering the forest. If in doubt, please check with Trevor Wynniat or Forestry Office, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans. Permits will ONLY be issued Mon-Fri between 8.30am-4.30pm. Ph: (08) 8724 2887. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 Email: wynniat.trevor@pi.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
Nettle-Bed (5L290)	P	PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	
McKay's Shaft	S		Contact Phil Argy at Mt. Gambier as access can be arranged.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DY CER	Tank Cave Access Manager: Phil Prust. Apply in writing at least 3 weeks in advance to; the Tank Cave Access Manager, 19 Broadmeadow Drive, Flagstaff Hill 5159. (This access may be cancelled at anytime, at the discretion of the landowner) NB: New divers must first apply for an application form to; Paul ARBON, PO Box 290 North Adelaide. (See Tank Cave Access Information - Issue No. 57).
Baker's Cave	C		Please write or email the Site Access Director to dive in Baker's Cave.
NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Cocklebidy	C	Regional Manager	Apply in writing for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip to: John Watson, Regional Manager C.A.L.M., 120 Albany Hwy, Albany, W.A. 6330. Phone: (08) 9841 7133
Murra El Elevyn	P/C	C.A.L.M.	
Tommy Grahams	C	120 Albany Highway Albany 6330	
Weebubbie	C		Apply in writing with at least 4 weeks notice to: Graham Higgins, Dept. of Land Administration, PO Box 2222, Midland, W.A. 6056. Include in the application: • The dates of the intended visit(s) • Photocopies of CDAA certification cards for all of the party • A signed Indemnity Form for Weebubbie Cave (photocopy from original in Issue 61 of Guidelines). Please note that this arrangement is for Weebubbie only and access to other caves on the Nullarbor must follow existing access protocol. Also note that divers must supply their own ladders as the old ladder has been removed.

WELLINGTON CAVES - N.S.W.

Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C	Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.
Water (Anticline)	C	Affected by high CO ₂ levels during Summer/Autumn. Access arrangements are co-ordinated with an already commissioned research group. Contact Greg Ryan (02) 9351 4809 w, (02) 9743 4157 h, greg@cs.su.oz.au.

PRINCETON TEC WATERPROOF HEADLAMPS

by Stefan Eberhard

BACKGROUND

The advantage of headlamps is they leave your hands free to perform other tasks. Whether it be around the campfire, inside a cave, or anywhere else outdoors, the utility of headlamps over hand-held torches is reflected by their huge popularity within the outdoor consumer market. For the past decade, this market has been dominated by the French manufacturer Petzl, who produce a versatile range of headlamps which are generally very reliable. For the 1995 Cocklebidy expedition, the Australian distributor of Petzl products - Spelean Pty Ltd - loaned us six Petzl Duo Headlamps for field evaluation. The Petzl catalogue claimed these units to be waterproof to 50 metres, however, all of the Duo's eventually flooded at less than 15 metres depth.

As an active speleologist and cave diver over the past 15 years, I am always on the lookout for illumination equipment which is both lightweight and compact, as well as robust and reliable. For a trip to Cocklebidy Cave - or any other site which involves dry caving beyond underwater sections - I was looking for a headlamp that was waterproof too. The advantage of an amphibious unit would be that it wouldn't have to be transported through the underwater sections sealed within a 'dry tube' - I don't enjoy dry caving when I am forced to wear my dive helmet with a couple of heavy dive torches fixed to it. In addition, a

waterproof headlamp could also double for use during the dives.

Princeton Tec is a USA based company which has been manufacturing technical products for the Sporting Goods Industry for more than 20 years. You may already be familiar with the Princeton Tec range of waterproof hand-held torches (the Tec 20 and the Tec 40), the Aqua Strobe, and Sport Flare. Recently released to the Australian market are two waterproof headlamps - the Solo Headlamp and the Vortec Headlamp. These headlamps immediately caught my eye because they appeared to satisfy all of my criteria. The Australian distributor of these headlamps - Rucsac Supplies in Sydney - provided me with a Solo and a Vortec for field testing in Cocklebidy Cave during September 1997.

SPECIFICATIONS

The Solo headlamp is claimed by the manufacturer to be waterproof to 2,000 feet. The lamp offers two power options - a high power halogen bulb (2.5 hours bum time), and a krypton bulb for longer burns (up to 8 hours). The Solo also includes two pre-focused reflectors with wide and narrow beam patterns. A pivoting head allows 90 degrees of adjustment. Weight with 2 x AA cells is 127 grams. Price is about \$60.

The Vortec headlamp offers the same features as the Solo but provides extra power for the long burn. Burn time is 5 hours Halogen and 14 hours Krypton (with Lithium batteries), 3.5 hours Halogen and 8 hours Krypton (Duracell

batteries). Weight with 4 x AA cells is 226 grams. The manufacturer claims the Vortec is waterproof to 1,000 feet. Price is about \$80.

FIELD EVALUATION

Both headlamp models had good illumination characteristics and I was satisfied with their performance under dry caving conditions. The pre-focused reflectors don't leave that annoying dark spot in your line of vision which is an annoying feature of some other reflectors. The wide beam reflector still maintains a good spot for picking up distant objects. The halogen bulb pumps out the light, but seriously chews up your bum time. In Cocklebidy Cave we used the wide reflector with the krypton bulb - this combination proved to be perfectly adequate in the light coloured limestone of the Nullarbor. In dark coloured limestones, the illumination provided by the krypton bulb is less adequate.

Underwater, the headlamps are good for close-up work such as reading gauges, which is facilitated by the tilting head piece.

The desired bulb and reflector combination must be inserted prior to going underground because there is no provision for storage of the alternative bulb or reflector on the unit itself. Provision for the storage of a spare bulb within the unit would be a useful refinement I feel.

The Solo flooded completely during submersion to 15 metres depth in Cocklebidy Cave. My companion in Cocklebidy was Tim Payne, who had purchased his own Vortec Headlamp especially for the trip. His headlamp flooded partially during submersion to 13

metres depth on our first dive. In consideration of the manufacturers claim that the Vortec was "waterproof to 1,000 feet", Tim remarked sarcastically, "Well, we are more than 1,000 feet into the cave after all!"

On close inspection the O-ring sealing surfaces were found to contain minute burrs residual from the manufacturing process. Using a fine abrasive Tim removed the burrs from the O-ring sealing surfaces and on subsequent dives his headlamp functioned satisfactorily as both a diving headlamp and dry caving headlamp. I treated the other headlamps similarly and have continued to use them with confidence in both wet and dry caves. I have taken the Vortec to 60 metres depth, after which a little moisture had leaked inside. I believe that a number of other cave divers have also been using the headlamps successfully.

CONCLUSION

If I was looking to purchase a light weight, robust and generally waterproof headlamp with good illumination characteristics I would give serious consideration to what Princeton Tec has to offer, especially the Vortec model because of its greater power. Depending on what situations you are intending for use, these headlamps represent a competitively priced and viable alternative to the range of other headlamps currently on the market, although for dry caving the Petzl Zoom with its long duration 4.5 Volt battery remains unbeaten. For wet caving and diving, the Princeton Tec headlamps are a versatile accessory light source.

DEPENDENT SYSTEMS VS INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS

Systems Sean Leonard - CDAA 3071

With only moderately more bad luck, this might well have been an accident analysis looking at the tragic death of one of the nicest guys your are ever likely to meet in diving. As it is, it only rates as an incident analysis *written* by one of the nicest guys your are ever likely to meet in diving. It deals with a real life example of one of those scenarios our instructors are so keen to tell us about in training - how a small problem in a cave, can turn into a big problem in next to no time.

I haven't set out to argue the case for any particular gear configuration, and despite what follows, I am still undecided as to whether I should give up isolation manifolds on my two sets of twins, although I have made one gear alteration as a result of what happened. At this stage in my diving, I can't lay claim to any particular wisdom in the hardware department - what I have learned from my cave diving training, and in particular as a result of the problem set out in this article, has far more to do with the enormous difference between the habits I've developed over many years of open water diving, and those required in cave diving.

Recently my buddy and I, both of us only just having achieved cave certification, decided to dive Pines. We had dived this site in our training, and I had dived it the prior evening with others in our group. On this particular day, we hoped to be able to make two dives at this site.

On these dives I planned to dive on twin 85s with an isolation manifold. I have twin 55s, also with a manifold, and have,

dived with these configurations almost exclusively since taking up cavern/sinkhole diving 18 months ago, having done 75 dives since, 52 of these in overhead environments. My regs are both Poseidon jetstreams - the primary is modified in that it has an elbow on a long hose, and because of this does not have a Poseidon standard fit to the body of the reg, but an after market third party connection.

Our first dive was uneventful, I managed the reel, and led my buddy to the back wall of the main chamber at around 18 metres, and then right. We finished this dive with enough air remaining to easily undertake a second dive, this time planning to look at the left side of the main chamber.

On our second dive, we headed to the back wall and went left and down to just over 20 metres. My buddy managed the reel, and led the dive left and eventually up into eastern side of the main chamber. It's worth noting that at this point we were only fifteen minutes into the dive, had no decompression requirements, and at a depth of 12 metres are within 20 meters of the exit, and can see the light zone clearly.

My buddy is still reeling out, moving up towards to back of the eastern section when I notice my primary reg is bleeding air at the elbow joint. My first reaction is to move on to my alternate reg and try to tighten the connection between the elbow and the body of the reg. If anything, this just made the problem worse. Failing in this, I decided to move to my buddy to ask her to shut down the offending reg and

abort the dive. Showing her the offending second stage, and through a series of pointing and turning motions with my right hand, I think I've indicated that she should turn off my right hand tank valve. Imagine my surprise when my secondary reg (the one I'm now breathing off) shuts down! No problem. I move back to the faulty reg it's still bleeding air, but I can breathe off it. By now, my buddy has got the message that the wrong reg has been turned off, and moves to correct the problem - so now my primary shuts down! So I move back to my secondary - but it hasn't been turned back on!

Now things start to turn to custard...

My buddy is behind me, still trying to sort out which reg should be on or off, and I'm about three breaths down on where I'd like to be. On a positive note, all the repetitive training through three courses (cavern, sinkhole, and cave) kick in, and I instinctively turn to my buddy to secure her alternative air source. Good news, it's where it should be, and the shock cord is long enough to get it into my breathing aperture (I've tightly clamped down on my other aperture, not wanting to ruin a perfectly good dry suit). What I need to know about now, but only find out after the event, is that this reg wet breathes unless held level - I've got no idea of my own orientation by this stage, let alone the bloody reg, and my first half dozen breaths suggest what it must be like to stand in front of the Burrunjuckee Dam when they've got the sluice gates open. Only twenty or so courses as a DM remind me that once you've got air, even wet air, you can solve your problems underwater - and I finally get a couple of clear breaths, enough to move from near panic to some sense of calm control - only

now do I become aware of my buddy frantically giving me OK signals - and can finally return one.

So settle down, and exit stage right... All's well that ends well, as the bard says.

It's pleasing to be able to be able to document this myself, rather than be some headline, and it's caused me to evaluate my own performance in this. So what conclusions have I drawn (feel free to disagree - again, I'm not claiming any particular wisdom, just reflecting on how I see things).

Firstly, my buddy, bless her heart, got me out of the problem - I got myself into it, and any confusion as we worked through it was created by me (I'd dive with her again at the drop of a hat).

My habits, formed over several hundred open water dives, are based on dependency. So my first reaction after failing at the quick fix of tightening the elbow, was to ask my buddy to solve the problem.

My buddy was not diving on manifolds (and to my knowledge and never has) and I had not discussed with her any procedures for a failure such as we had.

Some in our group cross their reg hoses to lower the profile just behind the shoulders - so left valve feeds right reg, and right valve left reg. While I do not do this, it isn't something we discussed. Add to this the fact that I'm wearing my two metre plus hose, under my right arm, and wrapped once round my neck, and you may have some inkling as to why it was not clear to her which valve to attack.

So, what might we have done better..(although we got the perfect score - two in, two out !)

In the dependent mode - discussed the manifold and agreed procedures on various air failure scenarios. We could have been much more familiar with each other's set up - so leaving no doubt as to which valve to turn off - no need then to use the isolation valve, and potentially preserving the maximum amount of air to exit the cave.

If I'd been acting in an independent mode - I could have simply called the dive, and exited the cave - not even needing to swap regs - we were close enough to the exit we could see the light zone and so had no need to reel back the way we had come, had good buddy contact, had no deco debt, and I was getting clear air through my primary. As a precaution, my buddy might well have released her alternate air source and made it easily available to me should I decide I needed it. In hindsight, I think this combination of actions may have been the best alternative.

Equally, in independent mode, I should have been able to reach back and shut my own tank valve. This is not something I have practiced (needless to say I will, and will be able to do it with one hand behind my back in future). Likewise, I should have been able to reach back and isolate the two tanks. In both cases, it's not that I couldn't - it's just that I didn't try - reverting instead to my dependent habits. I don't know if I'd tried, whether I would have been successful - I'll know in future.

I don't think there's much I can do about my buddy's wet breathing reg - if it's below par, she might think of replacing it; in my experience any reg can wet breathe and Murphy's law says it will in this kind of situation.

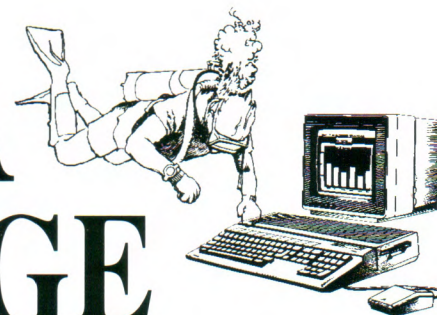
Only one other issue remains - what happened in the first place. Well, this

wasn't a case of normal wear and tear. The failure was the O-ring, which sealed the elbow to the third party collar for the Poseidon body. It's most likely that the screw and thread between these two parts were not a good fit, and the O-ring gave way as a result. So, with help from my local stockist, I've sourced a two metre genuine Poseidon hose with standard fits (it's expensive, but cheap compared to a repeat performance).

No lecture, no recommendations - just an observation that this focuses me on my own need to think more deeply and completely about issues to do with knowledge of my own and my buddy's gear, a need to constantly acquire and develop new independent habits, and to practice with any new configuration of my gear until I can use it all instinctively.



CDAA WEB PAGE



<http://artemis.eng.monash.edu.au/CDAA/>

From the 'Products' Man...

Battery Chargers

Last Guidelines I alluded to a range of multi voltage battery chargers I had managed to source. Here is all the information I have to date. No, I haven't got field test results on several hours use as yet, I guess like any product, that's a risk one takes. A bit like expecting your Dry Suit to never leak or your torch to never flood.

Switch mode lead acid chargers:-

Input voltage 90-260 v ac
Input frequency 47-63 Hz
Efficiency 90%
Over current protection Total power limiting
Over voltage protection Output shutdown
Warranty 2 years
These come in a variety of versions depending on required charging current, including some intelligent versions capable of charging currents up to 25 amps. The versions I was most interested in were the smaller lightweight ones, with travel in mind. The standard 1 amp plug pack version weighs 220gms and can be supplied with whatever connector you want. The next size up is rated at 3 amps, weighs 300gms and also can be supplied with the connector of your choice. Prices are \$61.00 & \$97.00 respectively. The 3 amp version forms the basis for the power input source for the Nicad charger, which can also be supplied with a car lead adapter (Nullabor or elsewhere).

Nicad Charger:-

Input voltage 16vAC 1.5A via optional plug pack or 12-14vDC 2A via Lead Acid charger
Charging current Set at 1A (adjustable 250-1800mAh)
Max. No of cells 2 - 16 in series (2.4 - 14.4 v, 200mAh - 4500mAh)
Warranty 6 months
The Nicad charger retails at \$153.00
No, it is not my company and nor will I be making anything from possible sales. It was simply a subject of interest re a proposed trip to Mexico. For further information please contact me direct via email cedwards@teksupprt.net.au or phone 0417 116 372.

Book List

New Edition of Peter Hornes Lower South East Cave Reference - an illustrated catalogue of the Registered Caves, Sinkholes & associated Karst features of the Lower South East Region of S.A. \$130.00
Solo Diving by Robert Von Maier - The art of self sufficiency addressing the sometimes controversial issue of diving alone. \$35.00
Dry Suit Diving everything including buoyancy, maintenance, choice etc. \$35.00
25th Anniversary stickers, Special deal 3 for \$5.00

1998 AGM AND 25 YEAR CELEBRATION

The 25th Year Commemorative Celebrations were very successful and were highlighted by Lamar Hires who spoke at the CDAA dinner and conducted a side mount workshop on Sunday morning. I am sure that all who attended enjoyed these events.

This years Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday morning commencing at 10.00am and was followed by a BBQ at the premises. This format was well supported and it was encouraging for the National Committee that members present indicated a solid support for an recognition of the work undertaken during the last term.

Directors positions were called in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. With the exception of the position of Site Access Director for which no nomination was received all other Directors stood again uncontested. Gary Barclay has agreed to continue until the position is filled. This will be by expression of interest. Details relating to this call are contained in this issue of Guidelines.

Your current National Committee comprises of:

National Director	Steve Sturgeon
Business Director	Carlo Virgili
Standards Director	Glen Harrison
Treasurer	Sabine Schnittger
Site Access Director	vacant (Gary Barclay until filled through expression of interest)

The constitutional amendments were carried with a substantial majority vote. These amendments will be effective seven days after they have been posted. A report by the Returning Officer will be published in the next issue of Guidelines. At the

same time the approved amendments will be issued in a format which can be included in your member manuals. The amendments are as follows:

26 1) Except where expressly provided the election of Officer Bearers will take place by postal ballot and the result will be announced at the Annual General Meeting, where the Chairperson will first declare all positions vacant.

26 2) Nominations for the 1999/2000 year will be called for the positions of National Director, Site Access Director and Publications and Records Director for a two year term and Business Director and Standards Director for a one year term.

26 3) The following annual election only the positions of Business Director and Standards Director will be called for a period of two (2) years.

26 4) Office Bearer positions are for two (2) year terms and will be called on alternate years as described in this clause: Existing Clauses 26 (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) to be renumbered as 26 (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9).

34 2) Eligible members wishing to bring business before the Annual General Meeting must give forty-five (45) days notice from the polling date of that business in writing to the Business Director.

34 3) The National Committee can present business for voting at any time provided that voting be conducted by postal ballot.

34 4) Except where otherwise provided the Business Director must give notice of the polling date and provide details of the business to be transacted together with the postal ballot papers for that purpose at least thirty (30) days prior to the polling date.

34 5) The Business Director must advise all members in writing of the duly passed amendments within thirty (30) days and amendments will come into effect seven (7) days after the advice is posted.

36 3) Except for where expressly provided the Constitution can be amended by duly proposed and seconded proposal in writing to the Business Director duly notify each member in writing of the proposed amendment(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual General Meeting. No voting on Constitutional amendments will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. The result of any ballots must be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Business director must be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Business Director must give notice to all member in writing of the duly passed amendments within thirty (30) days and amendments will come into effect seven (7) days after such notice is posted.

The National Committee reported to members at the Annual General Meeting that it is concerned at the volume of work undertaken by some volunteers and it is obvious that should these members decide they are unable to continue then finding a replacement will be a very difficult if not impossible task and in some cases may result in members diving activities being interrupted.

This is compounded by ever increasing administrative and legal requirements, cost pressures on existing services and the need and understandable demand for new services and activities.

Also of concern is the fact that there has been a lack of response to nominating for director positions with the last 2 years seeing 9 nominations for a possible 10 positions; with no new nominations this

year. It would be nice to assume that this may be a result of membership satisfaction with the job being done: but in reality it is likely that the jobs carry a lot of work requiring in some cases special skills and members are unable to give you the time required to undertake these functions to a satisfactory level.

The work is not going to go away! It is important therefore that a strategy be developed to overcome any short or long term problems. One possible solution which was discussed at length at the Annual General Meeting was the appointment of a paid official. This would necessarily result in a membership fee increase or a levy.

Members at the Annual General Meeting indicated cautious but unanimous support for this proposal citing that a \$50 membership fee was low and represented excellent value for service. It is interesting that Lamer Hires described the NSS/CDS expanding to employ a part time administrator as being invaluable in the NSS/CDS expanding and achieving the goals it has to date.

The intention of the National Committee is to follow through with the proposal and it is now trying to gauge wider member opinion in relation to the scope of the paid positions. Written comments will be accepted until 31 January 1999. If you are strongly opposed to this strategy do not simply voice opposition, please indicate how you might address the issues cited above. The issues are not going away and action to address these must be taken. Highlighting the problem was the National Committee's inability to find anyone to prepare arguments for an against the proposal. So although not cotia the National Committee has endeavoured to put both issues for your consideration.

The Association doesn't need a paid position

The Association has existed for 25 years without the kind of paid position that is now being contemplated. Sure, directors and office bearers have a number of tasks to do, but that is no different from the voluntary duties undertaken in other non-profit organisation and clubs. The CDAA has more than 800 members, it must be possible to distribute the jobs between them!

Even a part-timer costs money. Everyone will have pay. Once we start paying people to do jobs there will be not turning back. Down the track is a formal faceless organisation which is expensive to run and removed from members. It is also difficult to see how a paid position would work in practice. Given past experience with directors and the lack of financial and other security in the organisation the person doing the job would have a fairer amount of autonomy.

Without a paid position we will muddle along forever

While it is true the Association has now existed for 25 years without a paid position, it is also true that it has done so badly and sometimes very badly:

Almost all of the Associations records, maps, copies of past research work or any other documents are well and truly lost.

The few members who do still hold such documents will not hand them over, thinking (probably rightly) that they will simply be lost like everything else.

The same goes for the Association's assets. Over the years that Association has spent quite some sums of money to buy printers, Fax and Answering machines, etc. We have also received quite a few donations such as regulators etc. None of

these things have ever been properly documented in an asset register and almost all of this equipment has now disappeared. Where we know it exists the chance of getting it back is almost nil.

Keeping records in one place and in an organised manner and collecting material - so that the associations members might actually have a chance to look at it in a few years' time and we don't have to keep going over new ground - is a first priority. One are which is now being run very well is the membership and instructor records. But this is also now a huge job requiring a great deal of time particularly when renewals are up. This is one of the most important jobs around so when Linda gets tired of it it has to be carried out by someone who can dedicate the same effort and time to do it properly.

More generally there is a question about doing things professionally and promptly. Many organisations including landowners and Government who deal with the Association are frustrated at the fact that things often take forever to do. This is precisely because we are an organisation run by volunteers. You cannot ask a volunteer to do things in a rush because they are doing it in their own spare time (whenever that is) and they are not getting paid for it. This makes us look like a bunch amateurs in a world where we have to have good relations with property owners and Government.

There is of course a question about how this position should be organised we cannot afford to have this go wrong particularly if this person also deals with some of the accounting and financial issues. But surely we can learn from the mistakes that have made elsewhere and make sure that this person is properly supervised!

CDAA NOTICES

GUIDELINES DEADLINES

If you would like to contribute to Guidelines, you should note the following deadlines for submission of materials:

Deadline for publication

7th of November	December
21st February	March
21st May	June

NOTICE FOR INSTRUCTORS

Procedure for ordering student packs:

1. Check you are insured & financial.
2. Send order & cheque or by phone/credit card.
3. Allow 14 days from when the order is received - so allow plenty of time.
4. Student kits cannot be returned.
5. If you need to phone for more information use (02) 4950 6262 between 8am and 12 midday (NSW times).
* Messages left on my mobile from instructors will not be returned.
6. Please do not pass my number on to dive shops - you should deal with them not me.

Peter Grills 1780
Instructor Materials Officer

ACTIVE CDAA INSTRUCTORS

Any Instructor wishing material contact - (02) 4950 6262 (8am - 12 midday)

STANDARDS DIRECTOR:

Glen Harrison
Telephone: 0414 946 602
(email) harrison.glen@saugov.sa.gov.au

INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE	INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE
NSW & ACT						VICTORIA					
Nick Jones	.	.	.	ACT	015 851 313 m	Stephen Arnel	.	.	.	VIC	(055) 26 5230 h
Peter Grills	.	.	.	NSW	(02) 4950 6262 (8am - 12 midday)	Gary Barclay	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 5565 8793 h
Gary Norgard	.	.	.	NSW	(049) 68 4588 h	Jane Bowman	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Andrew Robertson	.	.	.	NSW	018 412 563 m	Stan Bugg	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9379 8791 h
Des Walters	.	.	.	NSW	(060) 411 405 w	Linda Claridge	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 5565 8793 H
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						Brian Cornell	.	.	.	VIC	(059) 85 2514 h
Greg Bulling	.	.	.	SA	014 477 430 m (08) 8265 4978 h	John Dalla - Zuanna	.	.	.	VIC	015 887 060 m
Glen Harrison	.	.	.	SA	0414 946 602 m (08) 8386 3237 h	Chris Edwards	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 4352 h
Max Marriot	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8447 3360 h	Barry Heard	.	.	.	VIC	(056) 27 6474 h 019 401 469 m
Richard Megaw	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8344 1733 h						
Richard McDonald	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8295 4140 h/w						
WESTERN AUSTRALIA						Ian Lewis	.	.	.	VIC	015 284 051 m
Gary Bush	.	.	.	WA	0417 957 620 m	Warrick McDonald	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Marilyn Boydell	.	.	.	WA	(08) 9349 5646 h	Bob Wealthy	.	.	.	VIC	(056) 858 338 h
Steve Sturgeon	.	.	.	WA	(08) 9527 7667 h/w 0418 940 143 m						

It is with great excitement that we announce the Premier Technical Diving Event for the Asia/Pacific Region for 1999, the inaugural OZTeK '99 Australian Diving Technologies Conference & Rebreather Forum.

Held on the weekend of the 24-25 April 1999 at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour, Sydney this conference will bring together local and international experts in the fields of diving exploration, physiology, diving technologies, support systems and training.

THURSDAY 22 & FRIDAY 23 APRIL will see the first TDI Asia/Pacific Members Forum for TDI Instructors, Facilities & representatives. The TDI Members Forum, though utilising the same venue & hopefully being the core for attendance at the OZTek '99 Conference, is a separate event, open only to TDI Associates.

OZTEK '99:

SATURDAY THE 24 APRIL will see a public conference with a number of presentations throughout the day, culminating in a Lecture Night from some of the foremost diving explorers in the world today. Subject areas such as Expedition Planning, In Water Recompression, Gas Blending Systems Design, Decompression Theory and Rebreather Technology will be presented with separate sessions available for further discussions. Already confirmed to attend are the following diving identities: Nuno Gomez, World Record SCUBA diver, South Africa

Jim Bowden & Anne Kristovitch, DeepCave Explorations, Zacatan, Mexico

Richard Pyle, Deep Reef Explorations, Bishop University, Hawaii

Brett Gilliam, President TDI & CEO UWATEC USA

Chris Parrett, Aysmal Diving Inc, USA

Nicos Raftis, Gas Blending Systems, NS Research, Cyprus

Jo Odom, TDI Training Director & Cave Diver, USA

Andrew Poole & John Vanderleest, Team Australia - Wakulla2 Project

Dr. Mark Spencer, AE2 Project 98 Dive Team, Australia.

Further Speakers are being arranged and will be announced shortly.

SUNDAY 25 APRIL will continue with further presentations and will culminate with a 'hands on' Rebreather Forum and actual 'try dives' on some of the most advanced units available. Already confirmed to be on show are CIS-Lunar, Halcyon, Inspiration and Draeger rebreathers, with more being finalised.

Organising Sponsors to date are: TDI, Poseidon, Draeger, NS Research, Aysmal Diving, SportDiving & Dive Log Australia and the Australian National Maritime Museum. Further Sponsors are being negotiated and will be announced shortly.

This WILL be THE diving event in the Southern Hemisphere in 1999, and the premier occasion to be involved in Technical Diving Technology.

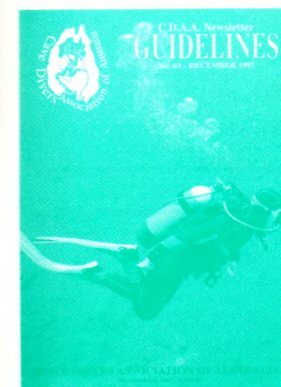
Advanced Tickets will go on sale in late December, for both OZTek '99 and TDI Members Forum.

For further details please contact: Richard Taylor

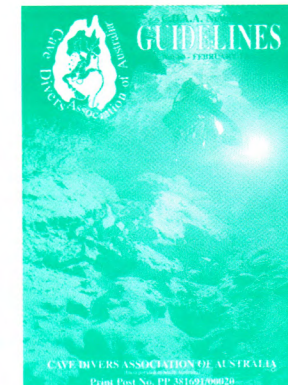
Director - TDI Australia & New Zealand

Convenor - OZTek '99 Conference & Rebreather Forum

Tel/fax: +61 - (02) 9958 3469 Mob: +61 - 0417 426 316 Email: tdi_aust@compuserve.com



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AS NEW with instruction manuals & all in
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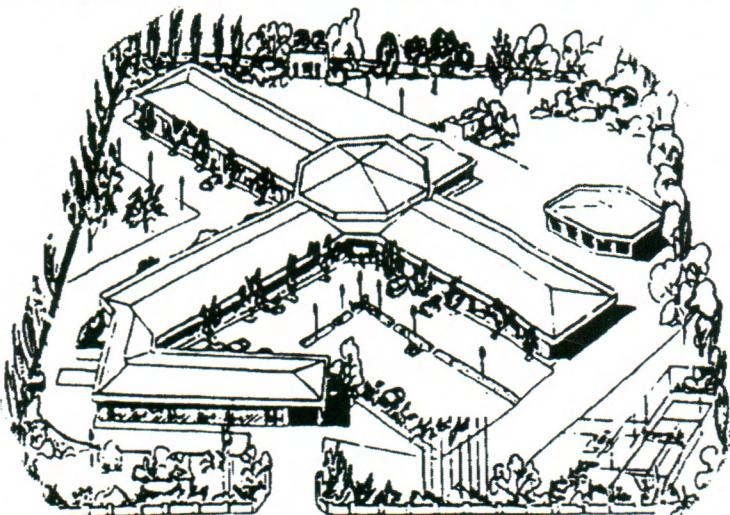
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