

WET RAG



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB (established 1962)

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
TELEPHONE: 0411 343 200

JANUARY 1997

**PLEASE REMEMBER
THAT THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT
THE NEXT MEETING
MONDAY THE 20TH
OF JANUARY**

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Street, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on Monday, 20th Jan. 1997.

President's Message

The '96 committee year has now come to an end, and it is time to reflect on the past year. This does not mean to frown on what went wrong, nor should it be an excuse to gloat on ~~what we have achieved~~. We should analyse the mistakes and repair if necessary and build on the achievements. A new committee is to be elected at the January meeting and this will no doubt be one of their first tasks. Over the last few years S.P.D. membership has grown substantially and so should the committee. A big roll up next Monday is needed and plenty of hands to contest every position, please.

A few members have approached me in recent times suggesting I stand again "because you have done such a great job etcetera, etcetera, etcetera". Now I would like to set the record straight. It is not I that have done anything special but more the members of the committees that I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 3 years. They have donated many hours of their time each month pushing the S.P.D. barrow. They would not put the effort in if it was not for the support they receive from the boat owners, appreciation from the members, and let's not forget the massive support we receive from many sponsors both with our club and our photographic competition. S.P.D. is sailing nicely at the moment not because of any individual effort but a combined effort from all and sundry. A perfect example of what I am saying happened only recently, with John-Claude. Barry Hallett from Southern Cross and Lesley Hillier from Shiprock Dive were only too pleased to donate gear for us to take John-Claude diving. Bob May and Mark Dietz supplied boats, while Martin Atkins and John Fardoulis provided accommodation up and down the coast and of course Russell who was always there with the club Bus. Steve and Lee from Aquatic Explorers were also on call but the weather that day ruled us out. For this particular effort many thanks to everyone.

I hope we can continue the enormous success S.P.D. has achieved and it will be achieved with a new and strong committee. I would like to

take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members and the club members who have supported me over the last 3 years. Thanks very much.

Regards Leo B.

Photographic Officer's Report

Well people the AGM is almost upon us and the work load is getting worse

Work is now in full swing for the presentation night which is the 12th April this year. After a lot of hard yakka by the photographic sub-committee we have secured Peter Fields as Master of Ceremonies for the night and as of today Mark Spencer as the guest speaker

The prizes have been allocated to the winning entrants of the Photographic Competition and I expect to see some big smiles from several lucky people on the night.

Tickets will be on sale very shortly so if you are thinking of coming to the night start getting your table organised.

On a different note there seems to be some bad feeling about the following comment from the December report "Overall quality of the entrants' slides was good this year and the judge mentioned that there was no outstanding portfolio's in the Novice Category this time, unlike last years winner." This is not to say that the quality of the entrants slide were inferior, but that in the slides submitted for judging there was no one portfolio that contained five outstanding slides, unlike the winner of the Novice section in 1995

Almost all the slides were of a reasonable standard, however some of the judges remarked that it would be a good idea to run a photography clinic later in the year to explain to people just what constitutes a good competition shot.

I look forward to assisting the incoming photographic officer in order to make their time more stress free than what I've had.

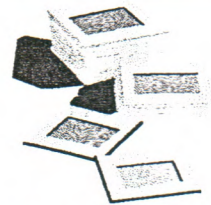
Regards, Peter Flockart

CLUB NOTICE BOARD

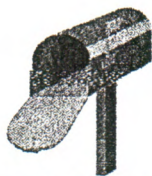


CLUB DIVE THIS SUNDAY 19TH
JANUARY TO THE TUGGARAH OR
MARLEY POINT.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO YOU
MUST LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE
CLUB PHONE 0411 343 200 BEFORE
FRIDAY EVENING SO WE CAN
ORGANISE BOATS**



ON THE 29th OF MARCH THERE WILL BE
AN OPEN FORUM ON THE
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION AT A
VENUE T.B.A. OPEN TO ANYBODY WITH
AN INTEREST IN IT.



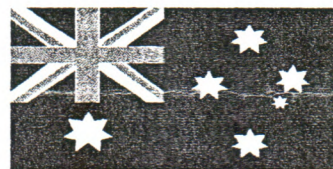
WE'VE BEEN STRUCK OFF!!!
RYDE HAVE,(FOR REASONS ONLY
KNOWN TO THEMSELVES,) TAKEN
S.P.D.C. OFF THEIR MAILING LIST.



BARBARA SWEETMAN IS ORGINISING A
WEEKEND TO EDEN ON THE 1ST AND
2ND OF FEBUARY IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO GO CONTACT BARBARA ON
0411 343 200.



LADY DARLING TRIP.
THE CLUB IS TRYING TO SECURE
PERMITS FOR THIS WEEKEND(15th &16th
FEB) AND NEED TO KNOW THE
NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD
LIKE TO DIVE IT AT THE JANUARY
MEETING.



DON'T FORGET THE CLUB B.B.Q. AT
LEO'S TO CELIBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY
(SUNDAY THE 26th OF JANUARY IF YOU
DIDN'T KNOW) AT 5PM ONWARDS.
THERE WILL BE A PRIZE OF A DINNER
FOR TWO FOR THE MOST PATRIOTIC
DISPLAY OF THE FLAG

DIVE REPORTS**SEVEN DAYS AND SEVEN DIVES ON THE CATTERTHUN** By Martin Atkins

(continued) Dive number 6 we were not meant to do but did it anyway. Mark's wife had decided that he should spend a day with the family. This left just Geoff Howell and my self to dive. Firstly Geoff dropped a dive bucket in the surf losing one of my dive computers. he then took ¾ hour to find it again. the steering broke on the boat and I had to lash it back into place. Then when we were anchored up Geoff stood on and broke off a tap on a spare drum of fuel. I looked up with twin 95's on my back to see petrol pouring over the deck from a one inch hole where the tap had been. We had oxygen gear, regulators, masks, you name it, on the deck of the boat. I managed to roll the drum on its back stopping the flow and we eventually poured the remaining petrol into the main boat tank. Luckily none of the oxygen gear, regs or masks were contaminated but we were now slipping and sliding on the oily residue which petrol leaves. Not to mention the risk of fire or explosion. The Nautical definition of a boom is the noise made as a well insured dive boat turns into a liquid asset. An then there was the current, 2 knots today. Having anchored into the wreck it was immediately apparent that it was running much too strong to dive. We decided to give it a miss. We had to send someone down to unhook the anchor, and of course he couldn't go without a buddy could he?

At the end of this dive (see dive No.3 for details), after pulling the anchor from the wreck and dropping it clear in the sand, it caught on something solid well away from the main wreck out to the S/E, and now did we have to hang on against that current for the next 40 mins of decompression. Most uncomfortable!

Geoff's finance's surname is Wolfe. We all think that she should keep her surname and hyphenate Geoff's surname to it to become Wolfe-Howell. Any way Howl she did and Geoff went home leaving Mark "Got to eat", and myself for the dive on Thursday.

Thursday's specs. Dive time 59 mins., depth 59.2m., current 3 knots. Weather now turning threatening. The current was so strong on this

one that I was having real difficulty getting down the anchorline. Mark, who was right behind me, was in my wake and was able to get his head right up against my twins (Tanks!) and push me as I pulled. In this way we were able to traverse the 350 feet of anchor line I had out. As we came down over the wreck I was feeling quite warm and breathing so hard that the air started getting noticeably colder with each breath. The air got colder and colder and colder due to the rapid rate of decompression from tank pressure to ambient due to workload and depth. 7ATA It felt like a cool cocktail on a summer evening and was actually quite refreshing. It had taken 8 mins. and half a tank of air to reach the anchor, and after switching tanks and pulling out the anchor Mark and I started our final tour of the rear half of the wreck. We commenced our 40 mins of decompression to a rough sea.

Normally the boat lays bow in to the sea but because of the strong current it was now stern in. We would look up to see the words "Johnson 140" which are written on the side of the engine cowling, underwater and the next minute the whole engine prop. and all was out of the water and we were being pulled forward like crazy.

All this time things go through your mind about how much water the boat is taking on and whether it might sink or how much flotation it has and will it keep afloat if it's swamped. As it happened it didn't take on a drop but Mark said it was the most uncomfortable deco. he had ever done. He should have been there yesterday when the anchor caught on something, that was even worse.

So far during the trip the weather had been fantastic and now it was turning sour. Even though I still had one more day to dive, I told Mark that I was going to make the run north to Forster now. He suggested that I wait and see what the next morning brings but I said No. The weather had been too good for too long and I felt that something big might be on the way. So we put the boat back on the trailer at Forster that afternoon and towed it back to Seal Rocks for the last night. I was going to leave a day early. The next day the sea was up. It was much rougher than the day before and I towed

the boat through torrential rain storms as I went home arriving at 3pm on Friday 30th August. That was the start of one of the worst storms I can remember in years

BSAC NEWS by Adrienne Hill

As advised in the December wet rag, There will be BSAC Oxygen Administration course held soon, open to BSAC and other SPDC members. The course will be conducted by Barry Hallett. The course will be over two evenings Tuesday and Wednesday 18th and 19th of March 1997. A small fee will be charged for BSAC members of around \$20-25 which includes the registration fee. A slightly less small fee of around \$40-50 will be levied for non-BSAC members. this money will go to South Pacific. For your efforts you will learn how to administer oxygen, and if a member of BSAC receive a certification. If not a letter can be supplied saying that you have completed a course etc. Either way, you will have developed the skills and knowledge about administering oxygen.

Please advise Adrienne Hill of your interest by the end of January.

You can ring me on 9960 3578. Deposits or prepayment will be required.

Other courses- the BSAC committee intends to draw up a training calender for the year to give all an idea of what is coming up. This might include cross over training, dive leader traing, Advanced training. Instructor training and some skills development courses. Skills development courses are very diverse and some of them include boat handling, nitrox, advanced nitrox, lifesaving, oxygen administration etc etc.

New members. If you would like to join BSAC we have streamlined the payment procedure a bit more. See me for forms. You will probaly have to do some cross over to BSAC and Ian will be able to give you more advice on this. If you are interested please ring Ian Underhill on (h)9130 6339 (w)9398 2233.

THE FRENCHMAN GOES HOME

Jean Claude LePenchon and his wife Monique have returned to Paris arriving on Xmas day. They faxed us at the club wishing everybody a Happy New Year and thanking us for our hospitality. He also wished to thank Barry Hallett of Southern Cross Divers and Lesley Hillier of Shiprock Dive for the use of their

gear.

FOR SALE

The Club has T-shirts, Myola books, Stickers and Spray Jackets for sale.

TECHNICAL DIVING BY THE CLUBS MOST ACCOMPLISHED TECHNICAL DIVER (or so he thinks)

FIGURING DECOMPRESSION ON THE FLY -
By The Bubblebrain Diver (*typists comments - could this also mean Airhead*)

A large number of divers do decompression diving. In fact it could be said that every dive is a decompression dive some way i.e. we must ascend slowly or do safety stops. Most divers use computers in this modern age and with their advent there are many decompression divers who have no idea of the tables for their profile. Should their computer fail or, if using tables, they should overstay their bottom time, most divers would not know what decompression schedule to follow. Someone once told me they would simply stay on deco until their air ran out as this would be all they could do but that may take hours if they have a lot of gas and it seems a very hit and miss solution at best.

A recent discussion on the internet came up with this concept. It involves using the Fibonacci series for figuring deco on the fly.

The Fibonacci series is a series of numbers generated using a formula. It goes like this:

Start with any two numbers (typically 1 and 1, not 0 and 1, according to Webster). The next number in the series is the sum of the last two numbers:

$$N(1)=1$$

$$N(2)=2$$

$$N(3)=N(1)+N(2)=3$$

$$N(4)=N(2)+N(3)=5 \quad \text{etc etc}$$

the formula is $N(m)=N(m-2)+N(m-1)$

To use this series for deco you would just have to know what the basic deco look like for different depths or what you like to do for deco.

For example on a 60m dive for 20 mins I would stop at 21m for 1 min then using the sequence I would get

60m	20 mins
21m	1 min
18m	2 mins
15m	3 mins
12m	5 mins
9 m	8 min
6 m	13 mins
3 m	21 mins

This is not far off the tables and a lot safer than most. Better still if you know the 6m stop for your time and depth you can use the formula to work forwards and backwards to work out other stops. You'll find it isn't too far off what most tables will give you. If you're not comfortable with it just pad it out a little and do some deep stops.

Another interesting peculiarity of this series is the ration of $N(m-1)/N(m)$ converges very fast towards the number 0.618 regardless of the two original numbers. But we'll leave that one for the mathematicians here to think about...

AIRDIVE IS ON THE INTERNET

Airdive have now got thier own web site where you can get information on thier products as well as technical assistance.

All this can be found at:

<http://www.airdive.com.au>

or Email them at airdive@airdive.com.au

THE 1997 KINGS CROSS BED RACE

The bed race is on again and we as a club have to decide wether we are going to enter again. The 1st year we entered we were knocked out in the 1st round, the 2nd year we made it to the 2nd round so this year will be our 3rd year and we hope to make it to the 3rd round at least. You have to be in it to win it but a fit team is an essential requirement so lets get organised and start training soon. Leo will be taking names at

the next club meeting.

THE S.P.D.C. WINE TASTING

The wine tasting night at Chippendale Cellars is on Saturday 22nd Febuary. At this night there will be a variety of wines to taste and purchase at single, case and mixed case prices. Don't miss this chance to try some great wines from round Australia including Alkoomi Classic White, Alkoomi Classic Red, C.V. Cabernets Merlot and Salsbury Sauvignon Blanc just to name a few. It should be a very pleasant night indeed. There is a \$5.00 charge fully refundable on any wine purchased on the night.

I SPY

Our very reliable 007 has reported back to us that he spotted one of our very popular dive shop properiter's diving the S.S. Wonniora one recent Saturday morning. Nothing unusual aboat that except the diving was being perfomed from a private vessel oohh ahh!!!!

HOT GOSS

Guess who was sitting at home New Years Eve waiting for his beau when he fell asleep he was awoken by the love of his life at 6 minutes to midnight with a big kiss and a happy new year he could not understand why he was an hour early for his appointment on new years day it appeared that someone had turned the clock back an hour..... Whoops!!!

AUSTRALIASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 1998

WHAT DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE?

ALL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS

WE WANT YOU!!!

Times have changed. Rules have changed. The Australasian Photographer of the Year Competition has changed. Changes are always taking place. Change is needed for growth, as technology and techniques improve, as we move forward into the nest millennium.

If you are an underwater photographer we want to see you! Your opinion and input will be highly valued.

Mark Spencer and Becca Saunders will be hosting an OPEN FORUM on the format and future of the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year. This forum will be held on 29 March 1997, Watch Wet Rag for further details. We need our input!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members are on the committee for the 1996 year.

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Leo Bergagnin	9558 2592 Mobile: (041) 951 7285	9517 2853
Treasurer:	Barbara Sweetman	Leave message on 0411 343 200	
Secretary:	Carina Gregory	(046) 25 8630	(046)20 1423
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265 Fax: 9374 2688	9374 2382
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	9746 6720	9377 3030
Dive Organizers:	Scott Leimroth Geoff Cook	9759 6501 9543 5817 Mobile (018) 29 4897	(019) 99 0864 [m] (018) 29 4891
Social Secretaries:	David Bilbow	9564 1119	9566 4333
Newsletter Editor:	Russell Stoker	9799 2663 Mobile (018) 963 527	9217 1739 Fax 9217 1484

BOAT OWNERS CONTACT LIST

The following members of the Club are boat owners. They generally go out diving most weekends and often need extra divers to make up numbers. Why not give them a call one day. If you are a boat owner, why not give a non-owner a call (see the membership list distributed regularly) and invite them along with you.

Name	Home No:	Work No:
Sue Armstrong	042 94 2769	9697 2248
Martin Atkins (lives in Jervis Bay area)	044 43 4631	042 74 0210
John Beddie	9820 4272	046 20 1746
BJ	9709 5535	
Peter Booth	9529 3818	
John Cassidy	9546 3538	0411 398 675
Peter Cassimatis (Brisbane area)	07 3847 8082	
Geoff Cook	9543 5817	018 29 4891
Bruce Cremonesi	9668 8126	9645 0286
John Fardoulis	043 422 939	0419 230 244
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808
Bob May	045 79 1053	

CLUB SPONSORS

The South Pacific Divers' Club is honoured to be sponsored by the following

Aquatic Explorers, see Steve or Lee at 7 Beach Arcade Cronulla, 9527 1518
Beverly's Restaurant at Chippendale, contact Bev on 9310 4878
Dive Quest, Mullaway, contact Chris or Gary on (066) 54 1930
Max Western's Sea-tamer II charter boat, contact Max on 9567 8658 or (018) 28 0791
Selera Restaurant, Level 1, 264 King Street Newtown, 9557 5186
Shiprock Dive at Lilli Pilli, contact Leo or Lesley on 9526 2664
Southern Cross Divers at The Spit Marina, contact Barry on 9969 5072
South West Rocks Dive Centre, contact Noel or Belinda on (065) 66 6474
Twofold Dive Charters, Eden, contact Peter or Lorna on (064) 96 1778

**Please ring the dive and social organisers or the club phone 0411 343 200
on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the event to confirm details etc.**

UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: Scott Leimroth 9759 6501 [h] (019) 99 0864 [m] and Geoff Cook 9543 5817 [h] or (018) 29 4897 [w]

January

Sunday 19th Dive on the Tuggerah or Marley point. 8.00am contact Geoff

February

Sunday 2nd Breakfast Dive with chicken on Jibbon Beach

Weekend of 14/15/16th Narooma, Mystery Bay, Lady Darling

Scans Dive Day Sunday 23rd Botany Bay Keloe/Sponge Gardens

March

7/8/9th Proposed weekend to Eden

Sunday 23rd Watsons Bay Diving, lunch at Doyles.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Contact Numbers: 0411 343 200

January

There will be a BBQ at Leo's place to celebrate Australia Day on Sunday the 26th of January 1997. There will be a prize (dinner for two) for the most patriotic display of the flag (The current one or your design for the new one)

February

Wine tasting night at Chippendale Cellars is on Saturday 22nd

ON DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Interclub trivia night

Interclub Skirmish match (See Joe)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THE A.G.M.

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **MONDAY 20th JANUARY 1996** starting at **8 pm sharp** in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

The 17th of February, the 17th of March and the 21st of April

Wet Rag, the South Pacific Divers' Club Newsletter, is published by South Pacific Divers' Club. Edited by Russell Stoker.



Send material to 36 Hanks Street, Ashbury.
Phone: (02) 9799 2663[h] or (018) 963 527 [m].
Deadline for articles is the last day of the month.