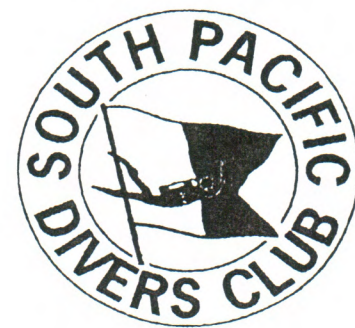


WET RAG



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

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

MARCH 1999



Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on Monday, 15th March 1999.

Presidents Tidings

From what have been told SPDC members had a great days diving on the SCAN day. My thanks go to the club members who used their boats on the day, without the boat owners this type of family day would not be possible. As for myself I was unable to attend the event due to work commitments.

I would like to thank "Samantha Oates" for the great report on the Australia day weekend trip to Jervis bay, each year this trip improves immensely. The year 2000 Australia Day weekend will be 5 days due to the day falling on the Wednesday. Seven club members have already committed to next year's event.

Our two new dive organisers Jackie & Peter have compiled a substantial list of diving activities for this coming year, I am quite sure that club members will be pleased with the choice of diving on offer. These events need support from you the club members to be a success. If club members desire an active dive club once again Jackie & Peter deserve all our support. If you have a particular dive you would like to do just call J & P.

I ask the club members to note the position of Newsletter editor is still vacant, Peter is handling the job adequately but should not have to continue on in a dual role indefinitely.

Final thought.

The one important thing I have learnt over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and oneself seriously. The first one is imperative and the latter disastrous.
(Margot Fonteyn)

Peter Foster.

Photographic Officer's Report

As conditions aren't particularly good at the moment why use the time look out those slides that didn't turn out the way you wanted.

I am thinking of holding in the next couple of months a critique/workshop in conjunction with some other members to assist the budding photographers in the club. If you are interested let me know and I will pass on further details.

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Later in the year the club will run the George Roberts Photo Comp. This is an intra club comp designed help the budding U/W photographer get started in the world of comps, win some prizes, put those all important shots in and above all have FUN!!!

More details later.

DIVE REPORTS

Drift dive with a difference

Craig's call came on Saturday morning, mid way through a weeks worth of washing (yes even high-powered marketing executives have to occasionally stoop to the mundane). What did I think about the conditions? We had been talking during the week about a dive on Sunday morning if the southerly had eased sufficiently.

I had spoken to the guy at the dive shop that morning, while having my tanks topped up, and the report had been very encouraging. We agreed to give the Tuggerah a go if the seas were flat enough for a comfortable decompression (nothing more uncomfortable than hanging around under a small boat in choppy seas). I put the twin bands on my tanks and checked the camera with a sense of anticipation. Events would make tomorrow's dive even more memorable than hoped for.

Sunday morning at 7:00 am and I'm at Yowie Bay wharf with another mate heaving all our gear into Craig's boat. The skies are clear and the breeze almost dead calm. The run out is fast and as we turn the corner from Gibbon point the seas are only slight so we confirm our decision to head south to the wreck of the Tuggerah.

Hazy conditions obscure the northern marks but we locate the wreck without much difficulty and get a firm hook-up on the second attempt. This is when things start to get a little interesting. Despite the lack of wind, the boat is tugging at the anchor line indicating that the

southerly current is running. We take a look at the speedo on the boat, which is registering less than a knot, and decide that the conditions are not beyond us or likely to make a short deco too arduous.

Craig's boat is a bit short on space with twin tanks and cameras on board so it is agreed that I should get geared up and in the water first. I have the camera and am therefore likely to be slower down the anchor line, with the others following as soon as they can chuck their gear on and get over the side

Second fateful decision.

As I roll into the water the current sweeps me backward but I am expecting this and waste no time in locating the anchor line and heading for it. Latching onto the line I head down, dragging my housed camera and four foot strobe arm after me, hoping to get out of the current as soon as possible. It is immediately apparent that the viz. is not as good as I had hoped however the disappointment is replaced by elation as I head deeper and the murk clears away to reveal the shadow of the wreck on the bottom.

I touch down to the eerie calmness of the wreck site. Savouring what I expect to be a few moments of solitude I look around me. The current is almost non-existent at this depth. Visibility is good, over 20 metres, but the dirty water on the surface is blocking out a lot of the light giving the scene a spooky twilight feel.

The thing I like most about this dive site, is the huge school of red nannygai, hovering in a vast cloud above the wreck. Much more of the structure is visible than usual. No sense in wasting bottom time I think, I check the anchor, it is hooked over a piece of iron (must remember to check it is clear on the way up), check my gauges, both regs working, check the camera, oh shit! The locking ring on the front of my strobe is missing along with the diffuser. I survey the damage. The diffuser must have caught on the anchor line on the way down and caused the locking ring to undo.

No serious damage yet!!!!

The water pressure is holding everything together. I know that that is unlikely to remain the case when I get back to the surface. However, nothing I can do about it now. At least the strobe is working at the moment. I am going to need a bit of artificial light due to that dirty layer of surface water. I head over to the propeller, a few metres away and set up for my first shot. Conditions aren't too bad for photography. The clear bottom water should keep back scatter away and there is still enough natural light to give a gentle silhouette to the fish schooling above the wreck. I take some shots of the propeller, a large windlass, some nannygai schooled around a mass of netting under the stern.

There is a galvanized anchor chain coming out from under the stern terminating with a shiny stainless shackle and a piece of anchor rope freshly snapped off at the thimble (I subsequently discover that Max Western has left this behind the day before). Where are my buddies?

Probably don't want to dive with a cameraman. I had expected to see their bubbles through the schooling fish though. The nannygai usually leave a bit of distance around the column of bubbles. I take a few more photos and check my gauges again. Coming up for 15 minutes deco. I don't really want to commit myself to any more time on the shot line in the surface current so I head for the anchor. During the whole dive I haven't moved more than 8 metres from the anchor so I'm sure you can imagine my surprise when I discover it isn't where I left it.

I check my bearings, no mistake, this is where I landed. I rise up in the water column, over the schooled nannygai, to see if the line is visible (it might have re-hooked on another part of the wreckage). No sign of it and I can see a fair bit of the wreck now. I briefly consider checking to see if my buddies have re-anchored on another part of the wreck but I discard this idea almost immediately. It would only entail more deco. So it's cut my losses and run. I continue ascending slowly towards my first stop. The water is dirty, at 9 metres, limiting my view of the surrounds. I wonder if I am sharing the vicinity with any large wildlife. I remember the speedo on the boat; I will be

heading inexorably south. I swim gently towards the sun since the current will be taking me the other way. I wonder if Craig is back on the boat. I assume he is since I didn't see him on the bottom. If not we'll all be having a swim around the Pacific Ocean. Just as well we checked in with the coast guard before heading out. At least the others will have some company during the long swim to shore, I muse, and I only have the camera for company. I rise up to my next stop.

There is a popping sound, as the port of the strobe is forced open by the internal pressure. I clamp my hand over the port, desperately trying to minimise the amount of water entering the innards of the strobe. If you haven't done an open water deco in poor viz. I can't describe to you how boring it is. There is just NOTHING to look at! Mind you I don't know how glad I would be to have something big and interesting to look at. Might be the wrong sort of company.

If the other guys are back on the boat now I'll bet they're shitting themselves. Probably wondering how they're going to explain to Sarah that they managed to lose me. I keep checking the computer but it seems to take ages for the time to count down. Finally the computer is clear! I wait an extra few minutes for safety and head for the surface.

Back in the sunlight again I can see the boat about half a kilometre away. It is moving but not towards me. Thank goodness for safety sausages! I fumble mine out of my BC pocket and inflate it while trying not to drop my camera or the loose strobe port. Once the safety sausage is up they only take a couple of minutes to spot me and head over. They are pleased to see me though I suspect more out of relief at not having to confront Sarah than out of concern for my life. Back on board and I hear their side of events.

They were in fact only a few minutes behind me when entering the water. The anchor must have let go under the load of two divers pulling themselves down against the current. This was probably just after I turned around to start taking photos. When they reached the anchor it was dragging across a featureless sand bottom.

With no hope of dragging the boat back against the current, to where they suspected the wreck was, they were left with no option but to ascend. After a short safety stop they hopped back in the boat and weighed up their options. Should they relocate the wreck and attempt to re-anchor? After checking their watches they decided that I would almost certainly have left the bottom by the time they had hauled up the anchor, relocated the wreck and re-anchored and besides there was no guarantee they would anchor on the same spot. They therefore decided to drift down current for the expected remaining duration of my dive and then actively search for me. They left the anchor out to slow the drift a little. When I surfaced they had just pulled up the anchor preparatory to searching for me and were discussing how long to search for before calling the coast guard and requesting assistance. Unfortunately for them, they had blown their bottom time for a return attempt on the Tuggerah so they had to settle for a dive a Osborne Shoals.

This dive certainly showed the advantages of having someone sitting the boat, especially in any wind or current. Although it is less likely that the anchor would have released once the divers were off the anchor line it could still have occurred. A reel wouldn't have been any help, as the load would only snap such a thin line, especially with all the twisted steel about on a wreck. In future we will probably dive in shifts with the second group not leaving the boat until the first group is back at the deco line. Perhaps other members might like to relate any similar experiences in the wet rag. I know another club member had a similarly lonely open water deco only the day before at the same dive site.

So there you have it. The story of my drift dive on the Tuggerah.

Happy diving. John Harlen

(Editors Note: This article was held over from last month)

THE SOLOMONS ADVENTURE

In late July / early August a trip to the Islands has been organised. Based in Honiara we will travel to Tulagi for some excellent rarely dived wrecks &/or Munda for some of the world's best walls. Budget priced More info next month. Contact Leo B for further details 0419 517 285

Clean- Up Australia Day Dive.

Sunday 7th March dawned fine and partly sunny but soon changed its mind and we were soon faced with overcast, windy and soon to be wet day.

No problem, we were going to clean-up Australia!!

The intrepid few met outside the Botany bay National park at 8.30am and when numbers didn't swell to an overwhelming level the decision was taken to get wet, underwater that is!! Glen & Maria Townsend and John arrived and decided to clean-up ashore. Peters Mason & Flockart leapt in at the LEAP, while Gaynor volunteered to do the much-needed shoreline clean up around the Leap. Fishos are a bloody messy lot!!!!!!

Mark Spencer, Barbara & Russell took to the water at the Obelisk and we met them later in the main car park.

Gaynor won the prize for the most rubbish collected although Debbie and daughters collected heaps also. The biggest surprise of the day was reserved for Peter Flockart who on emptying his bag discovered a female blue ring octopus with eggs amongst the rubbish he had collected. Peter Mason gently pointed out he had been carrying this creature around for some time, around 30 minutes. Octopus and eggs were gently returned to the water.

All the rubbish was collected by NPWS. The St George and Sutherland Leader sent a photographer (look for a photo of Mark and daughter Melissa in the paper) and after this it was time to adjourn for lunch and drinks.

We did our bit, pity a few more members didn't turn up, let's hope they cleaned-up Australia somewhere else.

Peter Mason

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Here is the second in the series " Nudibranchs around Sydney".

COMMON NAME : **Bennetts Nudibranch**

SCIENTIFIC NAME Hypseldoris bennetti

DISTRIBUTION : Common along NSW Coast

HABITAT Rocky reef and sponges (all types)

DEPTH RANGE: 0 to 30 m

ADULT SIZE: 60 mm

NOTES:

Can be found by itself or in groups.

Their colour is pale blue fringed with yellow. The dots on the upper body are red, while the gills and rhinophores (horns) are white with red edging. Sometimes you can find some small

transparent sea spiders / crustaceans or copepods on them. The relationship with these creatures is unknown.

Reference:

Dive Observations

Nudibranchs of Australasia Neville Coleman

RAFFLE PRIZES for March Meeting.

1st Dive torch from Aquasports(Yagoona)

2nd Boat dive on Sea Tamer II

3rd Two air fills from Shiprock Dive

FOR SALE

1 X 7 litre Sterling Sling Tank

Nitrox cleaned and in test til Dec 1999

\$245.00 ONO

Contact John Beddie on 9820 4272

MEMEBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you received a renewal form with this month's Wet Rag your membership hasn't been paid for 1999. Please complete the form and return it with appropriate monies ie \$15 single, \$20 Family and \$60 single for 5 years and \$80 family for 5 yrs. Unfinancial members will no longer receive the WETRAG after this issue.

S.C.A.N. DAY

On Sunday the 21st February Sydney turned on some spectacular weather. The sun was shining the seas were flat and the water clear. Seven Sydney dive clubs: Doubts, SPDC St George, URG, RUC, Sydney Uni and Lo-Tech gathered at Frenchman's Bay for this annual event.

Divers were allocated to boats, which then scurried across the water to a number of dive sites in and around Botany Bay. SPD members frolicked around the wreck the SS Malabar. It was great to see inter club camaraderie; in particular two Italian tourists who despite the language problem were made extremely welcome by fellow divers. What an introduction to Australia, these tourists had great company and diving. **Isn't this what diving is all about?** Congratulations fellow divers, well done !!!!

Thanks to John Beddie, Mark Dietz and Mark Ridsdale for use of their boats.

SPD in particular would like to thank Barrie Andrewartha and Belinda Barnes from Dive Log and Sportdiving for once again sponsoring this event. They have proudly supported this event from its inception.

NEXT MAJOR CLUB EVENT

CHICKEN AND CHAMPANGE DAY

We've done it before, it was great then and lets make it even better now!!

On Sunday the 18th April club members are invited to attend this family day at Jibbon Beach. Boats will depart from Dolans Bay and later return to collect wives/family and other non-divers. The club will provide Chicken, salads, rolls and Champagne at a *tinny* cost.

R.S.V.P.

Please contact the dive co-ordinators or leave a message on the club phone.

A "WRECK" WEEK IN EDEN 1999

Having a 6 week break from work at Christmas each year one must make an effort to do something else other than working around the house. A better idea go WRECK DIVING. Yes enough brownie points up - yes I was told to go. Di was unable to come - someone had to bring the bacon home and keep working, feed the cat's etc.

Location? north or south - typical winds in January are North - East and quite strong (not much good going north) - decision made EDEN - this would be my 5th trip down with my boat - "Seadragon".

Time-dates? Out with the tide charts I had to pick a week with the high tides in the morning starting at about 8.00am so we could go down the river at Womboyn and have enough water under prop to navigate the sand flats in the river **AND** go over the bar at the mouth of the river to Disaster Bay (Green Cape) and the "good wrecks"?

Accommodation? Twofold Dive Charters (02 64961778) - Peter Hall dive lodge at Eden accommodates about 12 divers - one boat crew equals plenty of space even with all the video / camera equipment and right in town (50M up the road). Yes no problem house booked for a week.

Crew? who might be able to get time off - 3 required - Phone calls to - Roy "the boy Davies (a floor / wall tiler self employed) who had been down to Eden with me before and wanted a crack at the "Moon" Yes, dead keen to go no problem working around the dates.

John Simmonds "Simmo" with who I have dived with for over 20 years "a keen bottom scratcher" another who had been down

Green Cape running from Womboyn and down the river to Green Cape..

From Eden we would dive the OLIVE CLAM, LANERCOST, SS EMPIRE GLADSTONE and the tugs TASMAN HAULER and the HENRY BOLTE.

DAY 1 - SAT 16/1 Started for me real good, I slept in and ran an hour late in picking Roy up. We travelled down the highway to Canberra then out to Cooma, down Brown's mountain turn right at the foot of the mountain to Eden via a back road. Of course we were the last to book in, toss the sleeping gear and food?

I was given enough to feed a tribe for 2 weeks into the house. Then we decided not to waste a day a N.E. wind blowing Hauler for a dive with 1.5-m wind chop trip. Water vis was poor at about 7 M for a 35min. dive in 29m deep. I got back to the boat knowing something was definitely wrong with my new BCD the 2 straps holding the lift harness had come apart!

Too rough for a second dive - home, wash gear, shower and tea at the Fishermen Club and a few beers. With the strong N-E winds plans were made to do Green Cape wrecks tomorrow (these wrecks are protected in N-E winds). A competition was held whilst walking back to the house - who could kill the most cockroaches. - heaps everywhere.

For what John experienced in the Days 2 through 8 see next months WETRAG.

March Meeting

Just a reminder that we are voting to change AGM from December back to July. If unable to attend please fill out the enclosed proxy form

**Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club
at Bankstown Sports Club
Monday 15th February 1999**

Meeting Opened: 8.15pm members & visitors welcomed by Peter Foster.

Apologies: John Beddie, Sarah & John Harlen, Elonar Wright, Graham Oates, Ilona Kandalis.

Secretary:

Mark Spencer

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by Peter Mason seconded

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:

Membership renewals from Mecki Kronen, Leo B, Doug Marks, Bill Carter, Ray Medland, B J, Bill Atherton. Doubts newsletter, URG newsletter, TUG, Waves, World of Adventure Expo, Liverpool City Council, CBA, One-Tel, BOC Gases, Dirty Dicks, AquaSports Yagoona.

Outgoing to BDSC, Dept of Fair Trading re-Public Officer.

Treasurers Report: February 1999

Graham Oates

No report

Dive Organisers Report

Peter Mason

All information in Wet Rag, Lee Harvey & Steve Crow to be wed, Peter asked all present to suggest dive sites. Numbers for SCANS day, Jackie Rotenstein asked for E-mail addresses.

Social Organiser: Position Vacant

Photographic Officer:

Peter Flockart

Apologised for not having slides available, may not run with George Roberts contest as club is lacking photographers, liaise with Glen & Tom about photo workshop.

Publicity Officer:

Leo Bergagnin

Promoting current activities within club, needs more lead time to publicise future events in Dive Log etc.

Jackie Rotenstein: Dept of Fair Trading, changed requirements for clubs, re-rules of incorporation, will check with D of FT. *Gordon* - any changes on hold? Jackie yes. Leo- if present rules are legal why not submit them.

Gordon- are rules gazetted Jackie yes, at work, will bring rules up to date changing wording not context. *Gordon* -balance sheet from July 1998.

Jackie-yes. *Martin*-are sample guidelines of rules available. *Leo*-one person asked for a copy of the rules some 18 months ago & we haven't finalised them yet. *Jackie* - insurance needs mainly concern the club. *Leo*-asked if Jackie had latest copy of rules to update & submit final copy to D of FT. *Gordon*-can outstanding items be submitted. *Peter Foster*-rules relate to boat owners & public liability insurance.

Equipment Officer:

Glen

Percy

All equipment present and accounted for anyone can use contact Glen. Items include O2, banners, Jackets, Shirts, Mag & BBQ.

Gordon wants eskies & BBQ for SCANS day.

Leo asked *Gordon* to open toilets & have O2 at SCANS day.

Dive Reports: Leo-dived Tuggerah on Sunday, bad vis.

Jackie-dived Solitary Islands last month.

Glen-Night dive at Shiprock, not clean, pleasant dive at mid-tide, abundant life.

Darren-Manly ocean world bought out by Darling Harbour aquarium, had last dive here closed to divers.

Peter Foster-Good weekend onboard "Indulgence", Dry suit leaked. Viking dry suit for sale. Boat booked for next year.

Barbara & Russell-dived Mullaway, South West Rocks, Solitary Island, had 2 dives only as weather was bad, even white water rafting was cancelled.

Gordon-SCANS day; sausage sizzle, boat dives with club members boats or other clubs boats.

General Business: *Noel Taylor*-Mag not being used-suggest sale and proceeds used to buy a slide scanner and an external read-write CD. *Martin*-Has anybody found anything with the mag, *Noel*-early model approx., 4years old. *Peter Foster*-no feelings either way left to members to decide. What it's value, we should set a benchmark price. *Peter FL*. new items may create more interest from photographers, avoid cost of duping slides to magazines etc. as commercial labs are becoming expensive- \$450.00 for last years AUPY. Leo-may not get asking price for mag. *Noel*-able to run slide presentation from computer having continuous display. *Peter Foster*-asked Noel to place article in Wetrag for members to decide.

Peter Flockart- renew membership as it will soon lapse, asked to speak at Ryde Underwater Club re-AUPY, approached by DOUTS and URG as well. No AUPY for 1999. Unsure whether to run George Roberts this year. *Glen*-feels George Roberts should run, open comp to other formats. *Martin*-will it be a shoot out or held over a period of time. *Peter FL*. will consider options re "George Roberts, needs to put together a photographic committee for AUPY. Persons require computer, talk to sponsors. Decide on world comp in 2000 and rewording of rules. *Peter Foster*-combine Adventure expo with AUPY. Leo-Expo targets general public limited number of divers Noel-combine guest speaker from Scuba Expo with AUPY.

Gordon-could SPDC combine with other dive clubs to have stand at World of Adventure expo to share costs.

BREAK

Raffle	1st Prize	Heinz Bendinger
	2nd Prize	Tom Byron
	3rd Prize	Peter Foster

Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

PROPOSAL FOR THE CLUB MEMBERS

The Proton Magnetometer has been a source of many heated discussions and problems for the club over the years. This being so at the last club meeting on February 15th 1999 I put a proposal to the floor that the South Pacific Divers Club should sell its Proton Magnetometer and buy for the club members a **Slide/Print Scanner and an External CD-ROM writer**.

Approximately 4.5 years ago the club purchased the Proton Magnetometer for the sole purpose of trying to locate new wrecks. To properly locate a wreck you need not only the Proton Magnetometer but also Side Scan Sonar. As a very avid wreck diver myself I have no problem with the idea of trying to find new wreck sites. What I do have a problem with is that \$4,000.00 of the clubs money was used to purchase the Proton Magnetometer which of the club only a select few are able to use this expensive piece of equipment.

- Note:
1. You have to have access to a boat.
 2. You have to be trained in the usage of the equipment.
 3. You need years of experience to be able to differentiate between the readings.
 4. In 4.5 years the equipment has been used but a handful of times.

I believe we put a sale price of \$2,500.00 on the Magnetometer and do not go below \$2,000.00. This will cover the cost of the new pieces of equipment being proposed.

A Slide/Print Scanner and an External CD-ROM writer will have much more benefits to the club and the club members at a cost of approximately \$1800.00. More club members will have useable access to these two pieces of equipment than the Proton Magnetometer.

Benefits to the Club and Club Members:

1. Will be able to scan slides or photos onto a CD-ROM or Computer.
2. The Club can make up its own PowerPoint presentations and burn them onto CD's for promotions within dive stores and at trade shows.
3. The Club can scan all the photo competition slides onto CD-ROM for record keeping instead of duplicate slides being kept. (Cheaper)
4. Club Members can have access to both or either piece of equipment.
5. Will help dress up the WETRAG with more photos from club members.
6. Will be helpful in promoting Photography back into the club.

I would like to see a ONE-WEEK booking program applied to the usage of the Slide/Print Scanner and External CD-ROM writer. This would mean that you could book in advance for the items if they are already out on loan. If when you return the items and no one has booked them for the next week you can then book them out again. But the items have to be returned to the equipment officer at the end of each weekly booking before they can be booked out again.

VOTE: YES (For the sale) YES (For the purchase)

Regards

Noel Taylor

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS" CLUB INC

POSTAL & or PROXY FOR VOTING on change to rules of incorporation 15th March 1999

PO Box 823, Bankstown, NSW, 2200

Motion:

To change the Annual General meeting from January to three (3) months from the end of the financial year.

I Name: _____

Nominate :

Name _____

To vote on my behalf

Signature: _____

OR

POSTAL VOTE

☐

YES

☐

NO

Standard Voting procedure apply

With this edition of the WETRAG, Noel Taylor has put a proposal for the club members to sell our Magnetometer and purchase a slide scanner and CD ROM. Now I can appreciate that Noel and or any other financial member of our club has a right to propose anything they like, but they too must appreciate that other members have a point of view aswell. Unfortunately this proposal, as others, from time to time have been padded with many red herrings.. If the proposal carries any weight, you members will except it. This proposal, in my view is shrouded in mystery and has a foul odour about it and needs to be looked at thoroughly.

In 1995 a proposal was put to the club to buy a mag. It was published through the WETRAG and a vote was taken. The vote was an extreme majority in favour of purchasing the mag. "Noel had nothing to do with the club at this time." Sadly the members who raised the issue, also had submitted a set of guidelines by which the mag would be used. The minute the mag arrived they continually refused to accept their own rules and this is why there were many heated discussions, both privately and publicly over the mag. These members in the main are no longer with the club. There is still a small group of members wanting to use the mag but will not do so at the moment until all this political garbage ceases. In reality what is being proposed here is that we throw away \$2,000.00 worth of equipment and with the remaining \$2,000.00 we purchase another piece of equipment that "only a select few will have access to". If indeed we need a scanner/ROM which costs approximately \$2,000.00 we have \$8,000.00 invested, there is ample funds to purchase it anyway.

Now lets dissect the pros for selling the mag in Noels order:

"We need access to a boat"

Bloody hell! How else would you tow a mag around? Behind a tow truck! This was a known quantity when the mag was purchased.

"You have to be trained"

What you're telling me is we need certification from P.A.M.I. to use this equipment. What garbage. "Training", the word of the late nineties, the word associated with people running around the countryside conning other people out of money. Well I for one attended the lecture Bob Ramsey gave us when he originally delivered the mag, many others were in attendance Noel was not.

"You need years of experience to differentiate between the readings"

Can't quite understand what Noel is talking about here. The side scan sonar or the mag. I agree that the more one uses the mag and plots its path the better one will get, but without the mag no-one will get this experience.

"In 4.5 years it has only been used a handful of times"

Legitimately yes. Scott Willin admitted at the last meeting that he has used it a "dozen times". I was president from the time we first purchased the mag up until 20 months ago and Russell "Baseball bat" Stoker was property officer until 12 months ago, we have no recollection of Scott Willin ever hiring the mag. Am I to assume he has used it 12 times in the last year. Obviously one way or the other it has been used more than a handful of times.

"Finally, the side scan sonar"

To find a wreck you need a boat "yes", a lot of research "yes" that's it. A depth sounder helps, a mag helps even more, a GPS is another helper, a side scan sonar is also another instrument, not necessary, but sure does make the job easier. May be the club should consider buying a side scan sonar.

Now for the slide/print scanner and external CD-Rom writer (scanner/Rom). Not necessarily in Noel's order. How many members will use this equipment? I ask these questions: How many financial members are photographers in our club? How many members entered our own internal George Roberts competition last year? How many members entered the main competition and regularly attend club functions?

At the club over many years we have hosted the A.U.P.V. with many members devoting their time to the efficient running of this competition. How many photographers have given their time back to the club? How many entrants have joined our club, even though entry into the competition is cheaper for members? Non photographers volunteer their time to host the comp and presentation night (the largest in this part of the world). Yet photographers still don't join our club, do you really believe this equipment will entice photographers into our club. I doubt. I'll bet most photographers have access to this gear anyway. Other benefits to club members allegedly are club members will have access to this equipment and we will be able to scan slides, both of these statements are stating the obviously surely. The club can utilise CD writing facilities, now available in most photographic shops, relatively inexpensively and even if the next competition does go ahead it may well be the last anyway.

Over the last couple of years we have produced 3 full colour editions of the WETRAG without the club owning this equipment. This facility is still available to the club if the occasion arises. The final benefit in purchasing this equipment is showing off our club in dive stores! "Yeah" Noel what shower did you come down in. As to trade shows, we are not welcomed there nor should we be there. We do not manufacture or retail, we are a non-profit organisation.

"THE BOOKING PROGRAM". Mag rules revisited, heard it all before. These questions need to be answered before considering this proposal. Who supplies the computer? (same situation as a boat) to use powerpoint commercially who pays the licence fee, who will pay the repair bills (this equipment is a little sensitive to be transported around, and is ideally suited to be in a stable environment.)

The magnetometer is a robust piece of equipment that we own and very few are available. We should use this as a asset for our club. It is time various members stop using it as a tool to cause problems in the club. Selling it will make S.P.D. look stupid in the eyes of other clubs. It is time as members we say enough is enough, leave the mag alone, as I said earlier if we need the scan/CD-Rom well then we can buy it anyway. If the main reason to sell it as lack of use then the oxygen gear should go, as should the projectors, etc, etc, etc. A precedent will be set. Proposals to purchase any equipment in the future will be unattainable.

The whole idea of a club is to join forces and work together on projects that is otherwise impossible outside this proposal is not about buying a slide/print scanner and external CD-Rom. It is about selling a magnetometer. I WONDER WHY.

VOTE NO, and keep our mag.

Regards

Leo B.