
Newsletter - Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

6 June 2018

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org



From the Dive Club President:

Greetings, divers!

Though many of our members could not make it to our June meeting, those who managed to attend had a good time! We enjoyed many entertaining dive reports, had a thought-provoking safety discussion, and were treated to many fascinating anecdotes from our profiled diver, Billy Schofield. Highlights of his stories appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Normally we meet the first Wednesday of each month, but the first Wednesday next month will occur on the July 4th holiday. We debated having a club picnic to replace our July meeting. As much as many of us would have loved to get together for a picnic outing instead of holding our usual gathering at the Golden Corral, the coordination and logistics became overwhelming. Most of our members have planned and scheduled travel, visiting guests arriving, or other conflicts for each of the candidate weekends in July. In the end we agreed it would be better to simply hold our July meeting one week later, on Wednesday July 11th, at the usual place and time. Hopefully we will have other opportunities for coordinated club events this summer!

Our club secretary, Glen Akins, is having a great time in Cozumel as I write this. He's there with Marshall, Art, Mitch, and Kathy for a week of diving. I'm sure they're having a wonderful dive vacation, but since he's not here I agreed to put out this month's newsletter. If you're wondering why the newsletter looks a little different this month, now you know why. It's my fault! (Sorry, Glen. I tried. Hurry back!)

Monster Molyneux

Executive Officers' Reports

Safety Officer - Ben Storey

Links were provided this month to DAN's medical FAQ which has a wealth of information on diving physiology and diver's health issues. Be sure to check it out at <https://www.diversalernetnetwork.org/medical/faq/> . An interesting article about an experienced diver's DCI incident is additional food for thought.

Treasurer - Evan Ball

We have approximately \$1,021 in the club account. An additional \$35 was collected from this month's meeting raffle.

Webmaster - Sharon Green

If you would like to share your pictures or videos with the world, please submit them to Sharon so that they can be posted to our club's website. Check it out at www.nasjaxscubadivers.org .

Secretary - Glen Akins

E-mail Glen with dive trip stories or anything you'd like to see in the newsletter!

Vice President - Venessa Wood

She's back after two successful operations on her knee! Venessa is wrapping up her physical therapy and hopes to be diving in a few months once everything is healed. Welcome back!

President's Safety Rant

One of the articles forwarded to us this month by our Safety Officer was entitled *When Renting Scuba Gear Goes Wrong*. The story was told of a 63-year-old diving instructor with over 2,000 dives in the past 30 years who took a dive from a charter dive boat using rented gear. Though the title of the article attempts to point the finger of blame at the rental gear, the diver's actions and failure to take action afterward put him in jeopardy.

The auto-inflator button on this particular piece of rental gear had a leak which caused the BCD to slowly inflate. The diver and his wife planned a 20-minute dive to 97 feet. While at depth he had to repeatedly bleed the air out of his BCD to keep from rising.

He continued the dive despite the difficulty with the auto-inflator. On ascent, he found he could not control his rise rate and ended up zooming to the surface from 33 feet without being able to do a safety stop.

Two hours after the dive he noted severe pain in his shoulder. Rather than admitting he might have sustained decompression injury, he sought no treatment for two days. Finally, acknowledging his injury, he got medical treatment including several sessions in a hyperbaric chamber. A week later, when flying home, the pain worsened and he went for another hyperbaric chamber session after his return home. Though still in pain, the doctors concluded further sessions would do him no more benefit. It took a month before his pain subsided and his shoulder returned to normal.

There are several lessons to be learned from this story. For one thing, delaying treatment for any DCI incident is a serious mistake. When nitrogen bubbles form in body tissues, immediate treatment can reduce the bubbles, put them back in solution, and the administered oxygen can accelerate tissue healing. Delaying treatment causes trauma to the tissues to the point it is too late to fix them. By the time this diver returned home and sought further hyperbaric treatment, the nitrogen bubbles had already long been dissolved out of his shoulder and recompression did nothing.

Several other points are worth mentioning. How well did he pre-dive check this rental gear? If he had turned on his air supply and noticed the BCD inflating before he got into the water, he could have prevented the problem entirely.

Even if the problem only started on his descent, why continue the dive to nearly 100 feet and stay down there struggling with defective gear until his tissues were saturated with dissolved nitrogen? He could have called the dive off right away and safely ascended at the beginning of the dive with far less potential for DCI.

Finally, why didn't he simply disconnect his auto-inflator hose? All BCDs have oral inflation hoses which can be used instead. As an instructor, surely he was familiar with this technique. Why did he ignore the faulty gear issue and continue the dive without even taking a simple action to correct the problem?

Okay, /Rant On!

1. Check your gear before every dive, and if it is unfamiliar rental gear, check it twice!
2. If something isn't right on your initial descent, STOP. Surface and fix the problem!
3. Think about the things you may need to do in case of a dive gear failure. In this case the low pressure inflation hose could have easily been disconnected.
4. If you ever have pain or other symptoms of DCI after a dive, seek medical help IMMEDIATELY!

/Rant Off

Hopefully this dive instructor's story will teach us all a few good lessons.

2018 NASJAX DIVE CLUB OFFICERS

President - Monster Molyneux

Vice President - Venessa Wood

Treasurer - Evan Ball

Safety Officer - Ben Story

Secretary - Glen Akins

Web Master - Sharon Green

Upcoming Dive Trips and Events:

- Billy is planning a trip to **Key Largo**. He will drive down on 27 June and dive with *Quiescence Diving Services* on 28-29 June. The boat is a six-pack and there are three spots left. They will be staying at the *Bayside Inn* in Key Largo for \$85/night. Contact Billy if you are interested.
- **Mini Lobster Season** is 25-26 July 2018. Regular lobster season is 6 August 2018 to 31 March 2019.
- The **2018 Jacksonville Lionfish Derby** takes place on Saturday and Sunday, August 11th and 12th. It costs \$120 to register a team of from two to four people. This does not include the costs associated with getting a dive boat or buying the lionfish capture gear (gloves, lionfish gig, and Zookeeper-type container). Contact Bill Davis if you are interested in forming a team to participate in the competition.
- Marshall may plan a dive sometime in early November to **Bonaire**. If you are interested, let Marshall know as he wants to start booking a dive charter and rooms soon.
- Our annual **Dive Club Christmas Dinner** will be 13 December at the NAS JAX River Cove Conference Center. Socializing begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00. We will arrange a special event pass for base access for those who aren't military retirees or DOD employees. Dinner will be the Beef and Reef Buffet, including Roast Beef, Crab Legs, Steamed Shrimp, Baked Fish, Seafood Newberg, Salad, Garden Vegetables, Rice or Potatoes, Iced Tea, Coffee, and dessert. Cost will be \$30 per person. A cash bar will be available for sodas and adult beverages.
- Kim Walther and Bill Davis are coordinating a quick four-day **Bahama** cruise in January. **The Royal Caribbean** liner *Enchantment of the Seas* will depart Port Canaveral (not too far from Jax!) on Friday January 4th, cruise to Nassau and Coco Cay in the Bahamas for the weekend, and return to Port Canaveral Monday morning, January 7th. All the details are provided on the information sheet which will be forwarded with this newsletter. Contact Kim or Bill if you're interested!

Dive Reports:

#1 Bill, Kim, Evan, Elmer, Marshall, and Glen went to **Key Largo**. Elmer lamented "worst dive trip ever" after his truck quit on the way down (bad fuel pump) forcing him to get a rental car and leave the truck in a shop for the weekend. When they got to Key Largo the weather was so bad they couldn't go out diving, so they went to a mangrove inlet instead. The water was tannic and silty which severely limited underwater visibility. They saw the famous Jules' Undersea Lodge but were not impressed. The highlights of the trip had nothing to do with diving... they were the meals and coffee at a local Cuban restaurant and staying at the lodge at Homestead Air Force Base! Elmer was able to pick up his repaired truck and drop off the rental car on the way home.

#2 Bill and Kim also did some diving at **Blue Springs** near Deland, FL. There was strong upwelling in the spring due to the recent heavy rains in the region.

#3 Monster and Eric did six separate dives totaling one hour and eleven minutes at the **Ginnie Springs park complex** to satisfy Eric's dive currency requirements where he works. Each dive had to be at least 10 minutes duration to count. They explored Little Devil, Devil's Eye, Devil's Ear, and Ginnie Spring with some of the connecting waterways. They relaxed, took photos and videos, and successfully accomplished the mission in three hours. Note Monster relaxing at the bottom of the Devil's Eye in the photo below. Now that's conserving air!



#4 Major and R2 dived with **Jupiter Dive Center** planning two days of weekend diving. The weather was rough on the first day starting out with 2-4 foot seas over **Scarface Reef**. Diving was great below the surface where they saw huge green turtles, loggerheads, and several bull and reef sharks. Water was 77°F and visibility 60-70 feet with a 1-2 knot current. Major had a leak in his first stage causing them to shorten the dive. Back on the boat they fixed the leak, dodged through a lightning storm, and found an area clear of storms to dive. On the second dive they again saw turtles, morays, and big lobsters who knew it wasn't yet lobster season. They surfaced to find 5-7 foot seas exposing the bottom of the boat hull as it crested waves coming to get them. Needless to say it was tough getting back on the boat, but the diving had been great! The next day the weather was even worse with winds gusting to 20 knots at the dock that morning. There were five divers scheduled for the Sunday a.m. trip. The other three canceled but the boat still was intending to take Major and R2 out. They wisely decided not to go, but the shop charged them for the dive anyway. Because R2 and Major technically canceled the morning dive trip before the dive boat operator did, they were charged the full price. The shop also canceled their afternoon trip.



Featured Diver Profile: Billy Schofield

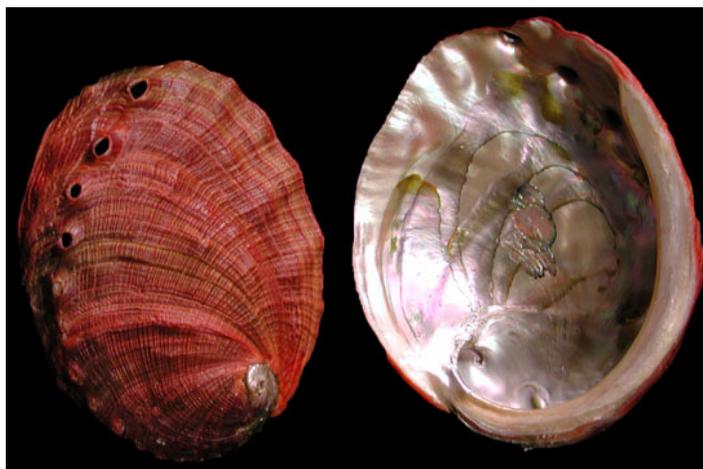
Billy got into diving in a roundabout way. Formerly a two-pack-a-day smoker, he decided to quit for the health of his youngest son who was asthmatic and suffered from his smoke. As a reward to himself for quitting, he decided to get scuba training.

Much of his early diving was at the Channel Islands in California. A local college offered diving classes and Billy made many dives assisting dive instructors by leading groups of student divers on underwater tours.

California diving was quite unlike the diving off Florida. Water temperatures were in the low 60s and he wore a custom-fitted half-inch thick wetsuit with gloves and an attached hood. Buddy diving was not really a requirement there and divers routinely separated underwater and did the majority of their diving alone. He recalled driving down to Malibu, tying a rope to his Toyota wagon, and rappelling down to the beach from the coast highway so he could dive there in the kelp beds. Despite commonly-heard tales of kelp entanglement, Billy said he didn't see how it was possible to get tangled up in the kelp unless you were trying.

Billy showed us some large abalone shells and his custom-made abalone pry bar which he used to pry them from the rocks. During his diving time in California he saw many unusual fish and had close encounters with curious sea lions. The sea lions were only scary because he knew they were food for Great White Sharks, but he never saw a large shark while he was there.

Thanks, Billy, for relating your stories of diving off California!



(Image of shells similar to one Billy brought to the meeting.)

Members present at the 6 June 2018 dive club meeting:

Bill Davis, Ed Fite, Rich and Sharon Green, Carol Hughes, Monster and Annette Molyneux, Elmer Osborne, Rick Reckert, Billy Schofield, Craig and Arvilla Stoops, Kim Walther, and Venessa Wood.

First Time Visitors to our Dive Club: None

Raffle Prize Winners:

Ed Fite - Club T-shirt

Rich Green - Club T-shirt

Rick Reckert - \$15 Diver's Supply gift card

Arvilla Stoops - Large mesh dive bag

Dippy Diver Award - For minor diving offenses

This month's award went to **Elmer Osborne**, who dutifully donned his scuba gear at **Devil's Den**, carefully walked down the long flight of steps to the water, (*and according to Kim, moved close to her, looked deep into her eyes and said, "Do you know what I'm thinking?"*) and then stated he'd left his fins back up in the picnic area. Doh!

Coprolite Award - For more serious dive safety infractions

There were no nominees at this meeting.

The next Dive Club Meeting:

***11 July 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Golden Corral Mandarin
Conference Room
11470 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida***

Come early to eat from the buffet and
socialize with other divers!

