

Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org

April 2022



President's Comments - Kathy Lawler

For the Dive Clean-up, everyone attending needs to sign a waiver & turn in to me. I can send a PDF wavier by email. Bring signed waiver to the Camp Blanding museum entrance on 4/23/2022. This entrance is our meet up point at 9:00.

Reminder on clean-up day, all divers need Cert cards, tanks, dive flag, collection bag, and gloves. Please bring a side food item to share with the group for a picnic. Check your email on Friday, the day before for any updates, we could cancel due to severe weather.

Thanks to everyone who signed up!

Local Interest Stories:

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2022/03/17/new-ocearch-research-center-could-be-expanding-to-mayport/>

Thanks, 🙏

Kathy

Vice President- vacant

Dive Club Secretary-Carol Hughes

Please send information for the newsletter either as an editable PDF, a Word or Google document.

We have decided to collect dues for 2022 at now a prorated rate of:

Single person=\$22.50

Family=\$33.75

Initiation fee=\$10.00

For June's meeting, we may try to do a Swap Meet. Find your unused, good condition gear. 😊

Dive Club Treasurer-Venessa Wood

Our club bank account balance is \$980.00 from March report. Updated balance not provided at time of publication.

Dive Club Safety Officer – vacant

Safety article provided by Kathy:

<https://dan.org/alert-diver/article/when-should-the-rescue-begin/>

Dive Club Webmaster - Sharon Green

Site Activity :

Page Views=144

Unique Visits=87

Average pages/unique visit=1.46

Sharon

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Dive Reports:

BLUE HERON BRIDGE DIVE Saturday, 26 March 2022 -Glen Akins and Lucy Font

A few weeks ago, Lucy and I decided to do a one-day dive trip to the Blue Heron Bridge (BHB) in Riviera Beach, Florida. We would get up, drive to Phil Foster Park at the BHB, dive, then drive back to Jacksonville in the same day. We looked at a tide chart for high tides and decided on 26 March. High tide that day was 4:07 p.m. Being a Saturday we knew it would be very busy at Phil Foster Park and parking for my SUV might be nonexistent. Being a four-and-a-half-hour drive, I figured we would leave Mandarin at 8:00 a.m. and arrive at the BHB about 12:30 p.m. and be able to get a parking spot. This would give us plenty of time to eat lunch, walk around the area and put our dive gear on. Our goal was to get in the water about 3:00 p.m. and be ready to dive 30 minutes before high tide, 3:37 p.m. Traffic on I-95 was fairly good and I drove at a good clip arriving at the bridge at 11:38 a.m., almost an hour better than I thought it would take us! There was plenty of good parking when we arrived, so we parked my SUV and walked on the BHB over to Singer Island and ate lunch. After lunch we came back to the park and looked around. There were parking spots still available, but they were filling up fast. By 2:00 p.m. all parking was full, and a lot of people were driving around the parking lot looking for places to park. Any time you plan diving under the Blue Heron Bridge you're gambling on whether the water visibility will be good or not. I've learned from experience to watch the area weather a few days ahead of your dive, then call Force E or Pura Vida Dive Centers the day before your dive and see what underwater visibility and conditions divers are reporting. If the wind is blowing 18 to 20 mph or more and/ or it's raining, there's no use driving to Riviera Beach. The water will be like pea soup. Our dive plan was to dive under the east bridge, then follow the channel south, then turn west and finish up diving on the snorkeling trail. When we entered the water and submerged there was still a little current flowing north, which was okay, because that's the direction we needed to go. Lucy's BCD was fully inflated, so she purged the air. As we approached the bridge pilings, she couldn't stay submerged. I picked up a rock from the bottom for her to use as a weight. This worked and we dived under the bridge. It's amazing how much sea life and plants are under these bridges.

We were really looking for seahorses but couldn't find any. Visibility was good with no tidal current. At the east side of the bridge, we surfaced and stood on some large rocks. I checked Lucy's BC again and it was fully inflated. I disconnected the BC air hose connector and let the air out. Without air in her BC and 15 pounds of weight she had neutral buoyancy and did fine. She didn't need the rock anymore! We went back under the bridge looking at and filming things with my Go Pro camera. As we dived, I looked back to my side to see how she was doing. One of her two tank straps was loose and her air tank was riding high. I had a difficult time fixing it and discovered a piece of the plastic strap buckle had broken. From here we dived the channel south for about 100 yards where a boat with its outboard motor was sunk. Someone told me the boat belonged to a girl that worked at Pura Vida Dive Center. There was a lot of fish around it and the water was very clear. From here, we dove to the west to the snorkeling trail area. The water was shallower there. We saw two snorkelers looking at something. As we got closer, we could see an octopus about 10 inches in diameter (includes tentacles). Lucy tried to put her open hand under it to hold it on her hand, but it swam away shooting black ink, then settled on the sand again. We continued our dive west then turned north towards the bridge and exited on the beach under the bridge. We dove for 54 minutes, visibility was approximately 50 feet, deepest depth reached was 21 feet, water temperature was 78 degrees F. We started diving with 2,900 psi air and finished with 954 psi air. In summary, we had a very good dive. It was a nice sunny day with very good water visibility and temperature. We saw lots of tropical fish, coral, sponges, a lobster, a stonefish and an octopus. If you do a day trip on a Saturday or Sunday like Lucy and I did, be sure and arrive early, so you can get a parking place. Oh yea, we got back to Jacksonville at 11:30 p.m. It was a long day, but worth it.





Dive Club Members attending the April meeting:

Sharon & Richard Green, Carol Hughes Kathy Lawler, Mitch Maxson, Billy Schofield, Venessa Wood, Elmer Osborne Jr.

May 4, 2022 Meeting

Location to be determined/look for email

NASJAX SCUBA CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Kathy Lawler

Vice President-vacant

Secretary - Carol Hughes

Treasurer - Venessa Wood

Web Master - Sharon Green

Safety Officer -vacant