

Newsletter - Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

17 March 2019

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org



President's Waves



Greetings, Divers!

Spring is rapidly approaching and that means more diving. This is the time to start inspecting your gear! At our March meeting we discussed things like BC maintenance, having regulators inspected, and about the importance of maintaining your scuba gear. Many of us are diving with items that are older than some of the club members. We must always be diligent with checking our gear before we dive, but especially so at the beginning of the dive season when our gear has been stowed away for months.

The club continues to look for suitable venues to hold meetings. Everyone seems to enjoy the food at La Nopalera. I saw someone eating a burrito the size of a football at our meeting and more than one member was grinning over their margarita drink. Several of us left with To Go boxes laden with leftovers. The room is a little crowded for us, probably not ideal for having guest speakers or AV presentations, and it can be a little noisy in there. But we seem to be managing our normal club business without too much difficulty, talking about diving and sharing information. That's really what it's all about, isn't it?

Club officers and members have checked on alternative locations such as the local libraries and schools. These don't offer meals and the hours and availability can be problematic. We had a lead on using the Elk's lodge down in Palatka but found out they are not available to Outsiders (us!) on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Starting this year the Golden Corral wants a deposit to guarantee 25 meals in order to book their separate meeting room and that is a problem for us, but we could still go back if we commandeer the other side of the restaurant. We wouldn't have privacy there, but we would have some room.

The bottom line is: We're still looking, folks. If you have suggestions let me know and we'll check them out. Our club is all about sharing new adventures, right? But until we find something else to try, we'll use La Nop again.

This month we had a "new" diver come to the meeting, Reuben Alvarez. He served in the Marine Corps and later as a civilian became a hardhat diver doing underwater construction work for shipyards. He recently got scuba certified and is anxious to get diving!

Keep your eyes on the club calendar as this year begins to fill with dive trips and new destinations. Don't forget to mark Saturday, April 27th, for our Rainbow River family club picnic and drift dive!

Monster Molyneux

Upcoming Dive Trips and Events

Key West – March - Bill Davis and Kim Walther

Curacao – March – Chet and Dawn Tomlinson

Puerto Rico – 17-24 April Glen Atkins, Ed Fite, Kathy Lawler, Monster and Annette Molyneux - diving near the towns of Aguadilla (shore dives), Rincon (Desecheo Island National Marine Reserve) and Guanica (walls and reefs).

Rainbow River – 27 April Jax Dive Club Picnic Event

Blue Heron Bridge – 17-19 May – Bill Davis and Kim Walther “pre-Cuba Shakedown”.

Cuba – June - Bill Davis and Kim Walther

South Africa – June/July - Mark Vogel

Cozumel – 8 - 16 July - Marshall Gross. Staying at Hotel Cozumel.

Gadeloupe – July - Marshall Gross.

Antiga – August – Marshall Gross

Fiji – September - Marshall Gross

Little Cayman – September - Mark Vogel

Caribbean Cruise – December - Bill Davis and Kim Walther, Craig Stoops and Arvilla Scureman

Dive Club Executive Officers' Reports

Treasurer - Evan Ball

We have \$1125 in the account right now. If you haven't paid your dues by the March meeting, your name will be dropped from the roster and the mailing list. A new Club Roster will be published this month.

Webmaster - Sharon Green

The website is doing well. If you are planning a dive send the info and the calendar will be updated. Please put "NAS JAX DIVE CLUB" in the subject of the email so I know to open it.

Secretary – Craig Stoops

Just a reminder that if you can send your dive reports via email to me before the meeting, that will help me with accuracy in the newsletter. Send pics for the newsletter too if you have any to share.

Vice President – Venessa Wood

The issue of needing a new place to meet is still high on the agenda for the club. Nothing new to report this month.

Safety Officer – Chet Tomlinson

Chet discussed the greatest threat during dives are drowning and heart attack. Fifty-two out of 110 deaths over the last year died of either a heart attack or drowning. If you are not CPR certified, consider getting certified or renewing your certification. If you are not Rescue Diver certified, consider getting certified and if your certification is several years old consider going through a recertification course. Remember to stay within your level of training. If you are diving in situation that is new to you, consider having a dive partner that is experienced in the type of dive you are doing, or getting some extra training on the type of dive. Make sure you have the correct gear. A comprehensive list of diving gear manufacturer recalls was shared with the club. Stay in shape for diving. Physical fitness is important for safety and enjoyment of your dive. Get a routine physical especially if you are diving outside the United States.

Bill Davis also provided a point of contact for the DAN Prepared Diver Course. This course provides refresher training on numerous safety topics for both new and experienced divers. Email Christopher Garcia: scuba@chrisgarcia.biz if you are interested.

Marshall Gross also recommended using Zephiran Chloride® (active ingredient benzalkonium chloride) for cleaning of wetsuits and other gear.

Dive Reports

No Dives to report this month.

Dippy Diver Award - For minor diving offenses.

No nominations this month.

Coprolite Diver Award - For more serious diving infractions.

No nominations this month.

This Month's Raffle Winners:

Major Nimock - \$15 Gift Certificate to Diver's Supply
Arvilla Scureman – Bonaire T-shirt (provided by Marshall Gross) and a Towel

Members present at the February dive club meeting:

Howard Feingold, Ed Fite, Elmer Osborne, Marshall Gross, Art Larue,
Mitch Maxson, Kathy Lawler, Monster Molyneux, Bob Carmichael, Edd
Dilworth, Mark Vogel, Chet Tomlinson, Dawn Tomlinson, Glen Atkins,
Bill Davis, Kim Walther, Evan Ball, Major Nimock, Carol Hughes,
Venessa Wood, Eric Wilson, Craig Stoops, Arvilla Scureman

First Time Visitors to our Dive Club:

Reuben Alvarez

Diving Club EXTRAS



The #1 Fossil Festival

in the Shark's Tooth Capital of the World - Venice, Florida

Fossils and shark's teeth, artists, live music, great food and drinks, kids games and fun!

All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Florida – Sarasota County

APRIL 12-14, 2019

Fri 4-9pm | Sat 10am-9pm | Sun 10am-5pm

Tickets \$5 at door, 12 and under free | FREE PARKING | NO PETS
Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 E Airport Ave, Venice FL 34285

Diver survives after being scooped up in whale's mouth off South Africa



[Travis Fedtschun | Fox News](#)

A diver in [South Africa](#) survived an experience out of a biblical passage last month when he ended up almost being swallowed by a [whale](#).

Rainer Schimpf, 51, was snorkeling off the coast of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, when he ended up in the path of a Bryde's whale, which opened his jaws and engulfed him headfirst.

"We were very astonished that out of nowhere this whale came up," he told Sky News. "I was busy concentrating on the sharks because you want to know if the shark is in front of you or behind you, left or right, so we were very focused on the sharks and their behavior -- then suddenly it got dark."

The 51-year-old said once the whale grabbed him, he felt pressure around his body but soon realized he was too big for the whale to swallow him whole which was "kind of an instant relief."

"So my next thought was that the whale may take me down into the ocean and release me further down, so I instantly held my breath," [he told Sky News](#).

"Obviously he realized I was not what he wanted to eat so he spat me out again."

Unlike the biblical story of Jonah, Schimpf didn't end up in the animal's belly but was able to swim away after being released.

Bryde's whales are members of the baleen whale family, a group that includes blue whales and humpback whales, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Bryde's whales are named for Johan Bryde, a Norwegian who built the first whaling stations in South Africa in the early 20th century," [the agency says](#).

"Bryde's whales are found in warm, temperate oceans including the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific."

The whales can weigh about 90,000 pounds and grow to a length of 55 feet, according to the NOAA. The whales have a diet that consists mainly of krill, red crabs, shrimp and a "variety of schooling fishes," but clearly not adult humans.

Schimpf said the whole experience showed him just how small humans are in the world.

"Once you're grabbed by something that's 15 tons heavy and very fast in the water, you realize you're actually only that small in the middle of the ocean," he told Sky News.

NASJAX DIVE CLUB OFFICERS for 2019

President - Monster Molyneux

Vice President – Venessa Wood

Secretary – Craig Stoops

Treasurer – Evan Ball

Safety Officer – Chet Tomlinson

Webmaster- Sharon Green

JAX Dive Club T-Shirts for Sale

Our dive club now has four different colors of t-shirts for sale for only \$15 each. We have all sizes. If you would like one, contact Venessa Wood. We've added lime and sapphire blue colors to our line of shirts.



