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# Newsletter - Triton's Call

**NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB**

4 October 2017

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Monterey, California Aquarium - Akins

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## **From the Dive Club President**

Attendance at last night's Dive Club Meeting was very good. The meeting was good in that we had a lot of "dive reports" and we talked a lot about diving. Dive Charter reports are saying diving is back on in the Keys and south Florida without much damage to the reefs and wrecks.

We welcomed Craig and Aruilla Stoops into our dive club last night. Craig just retired from the Navy and he and his family were SCUBA certified in 2015. Craig worked in the Navy's Disease Control Command where his job took him and his family all over the world. He did some very interesting research. They are anxious to dive in Florida.

At the October Dive Club meeting we nominated club members for our dive club executive board positions as follows: President - Monster Molyneux, Vice President - Venessa Wood, Secretary - Glen Akins and Treasurer - Evan Ball. We will vote and confirm these nominations at the November meeting. There will be no nominations at the November meeting. Our election will be in accordance with with our Dive Club Constitution and By-Laws. If you can't attend next month's meeting, email your vote to Glen Akins and Art LaRue to vote by proxy.

*Glen*

## **Upcoming Dive Trips -**

- \* Venice Beach Sharks' Teeth Dive 12 October - POC is Glen Akins
- \* Cozumel, Mexico 11 - 15 November. POC is Marshall Gross.

**Treasurer's Report - Howard Feingold** We have approximately \$720 in our dive club account. Upcoming expenses are \$300 for annual dinner raffles, \$100 dinner deposit, \$300 Website fee in April.

**Webmaster's Report - Sharon Green** Our website is up to date and has Mark Vogel's North American crocodile photos from Mexico. Ben Storey's awesome photos from Hawaii will appear on the Website soon. Sharon said

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we are getting a lot of “hits” on our website from people interested in our dive club.

### **Safety Officer’s Report - Rick Reckert**

R2 is sending lots of safety/training type articles to all dive club members through email. These articles are very interesting as well as educational. Keep them coming.

### **Training Officer’s Report - Vera Thomas**

Vera and JJ will do CPR training sometime during the last two weeks of January.

Marshall Gross discussed inferior workmanship from when he recently took his dive regulator, pressure gauge and computer to a local dive shop for annual maintenance and cleaning. Bottom line, whoever did the work didn’t complete what they were suppose to do and what they did do was pretty shabby. To make matters worse, they charged him for it. It was obvious from the remaining corrosion, that the equipment wasn’t opened or cleaned. Marshall also made an important point. When turning on any gauge or equipment that has air pressure going to it, stay as far away from it as you can and don’t look directly at it. There’s always a possibility of the equipment blowing up and the glass cover exploding into pieces injuring you. This happened to Marshall’s pressure gauge he took in for its annual check. Luckily, Marshall knew to position himself away from the gauge when he turned it on so the glass cover wouldn’t hit him when it exploded.

### **Dive Reports -**

*\* Billy Schofield and his grandson, Brandon, did two days of diving off Key Largo, Florida a few weeks ago. They dove from the HMS Minnow dive charter. The boat is a “six pack”. They dove on the WW II shipwreck, Benwood and on Pickles Reef. They got one lobster to the boat. They also dove the boat Captain’s “secret” lobster spots. Found out the lobsters had their secret spots to.*

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- \* *Mark Vogel dove the Xcalak/Chinchorro Bank off Mexico. He took some amazing closeup photos dives of North American Crocodiles. These dives were without protective cages! To see Mark's photographs, go to our club webpage.*
  - \* *Major Nimock dove offshore Jacksonville before hurricane Irma hit. He dove the Press Box area. Water temperature was a warm 85 degrees.*
  - \* *Ben Storey has made multiple dives since his last dive club meeting. He and his so dove Jug Hole at Ichetucknee Springs. This spring is always good to dive and no people were there. He also dove offshore Jacksonville at Montgomery Reef. Ben and his daughter snorkeled off Maui and Lanai Hawaii, then he dove a wall with his son.*
  - \* *Bryan Follis and Laura Childs dove Jupiter, Florida. The water was a cold 62 degrees! Goliath Groupers were more shallow than usual to get out of the colder water. Bryan said the Groupers would give a loud warning grunt as they got close to them. He also dove in the Atlanta Aquarium for one hour receiving training and using a "Rebreather".*
  - \* *Jason Schofield dove off Vero Beach, Florida recently. He dove on the "Breckinridge".*



**Diver Profile** - Rick Reckert, aka R2, was our profile diver for the month of October. He was YMCA certified while attending the University of Maryland in 1975. The next year he and a friend made a dive trip to Key Largo, Florida for their first ocean dive. They had a great time diving Pennekamp and Molasses Reef. That same year he was hired by NADEP at NAS Jacksonville. Here he took another dive course from Marshall Gross and joined our dive club. R2 really likes diving Florida and his best dive spot is the Grand Bahamas. The most interesting thing to happen to him was a bad case of vertigo while diving Jug Hole at Ichetucknee Springs and getting hit by a boat propeller. R2 is an outstanding diver and one of those divers that dives a lot.

**Dippy Diver Award** - No nominees for October.

**Coprolite Diver Award** - No nominees for October.



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## **Members present at the October meeting:**

Glen Akins, Bill Allen, Howard Feingold, Ed Fite, Bryan Follis, Richard and Sharon Green, Marshall Gross, Carol Hughes, Art LaRue, Mitch Maxson, Les Michael, Monster and Annette Molyneux, Major Nimock, Elmer Osborne, Rick Reckert, Chris Rule, Billy Schofield, Jason Schofield, Doc Smyk, Vera Thomas, Eric Wilson and Venessa Wood.

**First Time Visitors** - Craig and Aruilla Stoops. Welcome to the Dive Club.

## **NASJAX Dive Club Officers**

President - Glen Akins

Vice President - Art LaRue

Treasurer - Howard Feingold

Safety Officer - Rick Reckert

Training Officer - Vera Thomas

Web Master - Sharon Green

**[www.nasjaxscubadivers.org](http://www.nasjaxscubadivers.org)**

Next **Dive Club Meeting** will be Wednesday, 1 November, at the Mandarin Golden Corral, 7:00 p.m. (this is the annual club officer election)

No meeting in December due to the annual club dinner.

Next **Executive Board Meeting** will be at 6:30 p.m., **15 November** at Sorbello's Sicilian restaurant in Orange Park. All club members are welcome to attend.

**RECENT CHANGE - THERE WILL NOT BE AN OCTOBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DUE TO ART AND GLEN NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND.**

**JAX SCUBA CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY/DINNER** will be Thursday, 14 December at the Orange Park "Best Bet" Kennel Club on Roosevelt

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Blvd. The agenda and food will be similar to last year's event. Billy Schofield will check on buffet meal prices for us and what will be served. For those that want to arrive a little early to socialize, we'll meet at 6:30 p.m., then sit down to eat at 7:00 p.m. I'll put out the exact price and menu as soon as I get it. Please pay Howard Feingold, our Treasurer, for your meal(s) at the November meeting. He'll accept a check or cash.