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# Newsletter - Triton's Call

## NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

7 March 2018

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

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### **Sea Glass Beach Bermuda**

Thousands of small pieces of sea glass have washed ashore onto the beach in the back ground. This is from the local British Naval Base discarding bottles and trash offshore in this area for the past 200 years.

*Glen Akins*

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## **From the Dive Club President**

Greetings, divers!

Our March meeting was a double feature. Craig Stoops gave an interesting presentation on mosquito-transmitted viruses including malaria, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. It was sobering to see that areas plagued by these diseases include the world's best dive sites! Many thanks to Craig for his informative show.

After our regular club meeting we convened a special meeting to examine proposed amendments to our club Constitution and By-Laws. Over the years the club has evolved and technology has changed requiring us to update these documents to reflect the present operation of the club. Of the fourteen proposed amendments, thirteen were accepted and only one was rejected. Copies of the revised documents will be sent out to members soon. Sincere thanks to all the members who stayed and participated in this special meeting.

Spring is upon us, and with it, more diving! Check your gear, be safe, and have fun.

*Monster Molyneux*

## **Upcoming Dive Trips and Events**

- \* 13 - 15 April is the Venice, Florida Shark's Tooth Festival  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. It's located on the South side of the Venice airport south of town.
- \* Kim Walther and Bill Davis plan on diving Devil's Den 21 April 2018. This is Bill's birthday. I think he said he will be 39 years old. They'll dive and have a cookout at the spring. Dive Club members are invited to join them. RSVP and check with Kim to see what type of food to bring. So far Glen, Elmer, Evan, Devin, Craig, Doc and Martha are interested in attending.

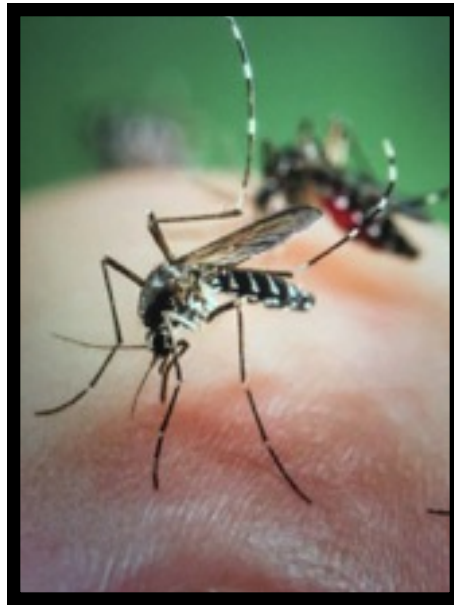
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- \* Marshall Gross is planning a dive trip to Cozumel, Mexico. We are looking at the week of 4 - 11 June 2018. We plan to stay at the Hotel Cozumel and dive with Dive Paradise dive charter. Those saying they are interested in going are: Marshall, Glen, Art, Mitch and Kathy.
  - \* Doc and Martha will be diving the Blue Heron Bridge Memorial Day weekend, 26 - 28 May for anybody that wants to join them.
  - \* Mini Lobster Season is 25 & 26 July 2018. Regular lobster season is 6 August 2018 to 31 March 2019.
  - \* 17 March is St. Patrick's Day for all you Irish and Leprechauns.



- \* 22 April 2018 is the official “Earth Day”. This year’s theme is “End Plastic Pollution.”

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## **Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases**



### **Presentation by Craig Stoops, PhD, BCE**

At our March dive club meeting club members had the pleasure of listening to Craig Stoops, USN (retired) give an excellent presentation on entomology and his world travels, while combating insect-borne diseases. Craig said he was always interested in Entomology, the branch of Zoology that deals with insects. Even as a kid he often played in streams and collected insects that lived there. In 1994 he graduated from the Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. During that time he worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as an Entomology Scout looking for import pests and invasive insects. Next, he attended Clemson University graduating in 1996 earning a Master of Science degree in Entomology. After this, Craig enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) in the Medical Service Corps. That is where he started his career as a medical entomologist. He worked to protect military troops from pathogens like malaria and dengue. Craig found the old saying, “join the Navy and see the world” was very true. Early on he traveled to exotic places like Palau, Guam and Japan to conduct disease control. He then went on to earn a Ph.D. in medical entomology from Clemson University. After earning his Ph.D., he was stationed in

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Jakarta, Indonesia. He saw some great dive sites like Bunaken and areas around Bali and worked in Cambodia, Thailand, Vanuatu and Sri Lanka. But... he still wasn't a certified SCUBA Diver. Following Jakarta, he and his family received orders to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. Here he served at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence and worked with the CDC on malaria control in Malawi and Liberia. Craig said, if traveling to a country that is known for malaria, start taking chemoprophylaxis pills prior to traveling. There's no vaccine for malaria, but things to help prevent mosquitoes from biting you are a good repellent with DEET, use bed netting when sleeping and wear chemically treated clothes. He also deployed to Iraq and on the way there landed on Seychelles, one of the world's premiere dive sites, but couldn't deplane. Following back to back tours in Florida, Craig and his family moved to Lima, Peru. They traveled all over Central and South America during this time. Their travels included; Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Ecuador, Belize, Honduras and Panama. Craig and his wife, Aruilla, were finally SCUBA certified while in Peru. They made dives in Panama and Belize, and while in the Galapagos Islands snorkeled. Craig says places they want to go back to and dive are Bunaken in Indonesia, Palau and the Galapagos. He's looking for traveling companions!



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## **Executive Officers' Reports**

**Safety Officer - Ben Story** no report.

**Treasurer - Evan Ball** We have approximately \$1,100 in our dive club account. Future dive club expenditures include a two year website fee payment of \$216 due in April. Only three club members haven't paid their 2018 membership dues. If you aren't sure whether you paid or not, contact Evan Ball. Make membership dues checks out to NASJAX SCUBA Diving Club. Membership fees are \$30 single \$45 for two

**Webmaster - Sharon Green** Sharon has recently updated the dive club website and format.

To see our website go to [www.nasjaxscubadivers.org](http://www.nasjaxscubadivers.org)

**Secretary - Glen Akins** Check your dive information on the club roster, if you need to make a change, let me know. If you make a dive(s) or anything related to the dive club, let me know through an e-mail and I'll put it in the Newsletter. This saves me a lot of effort taking notes during the dive club meeting.

**Vice President - Venessa** just returned from a great trip to Spain. She said our next E Board meeting will be at the Bob Evans restaurant.

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## Dive Reports



*January 2018 Blue Grotto Dive Trip at Williston, Florida - Bill Davis and Kim Walther*

**#1** Bill Davis and Kim Walther dove “The Flower Garden” and “The Elevators” offshore North West Palm Beach, Florida 17 February. Kim said the dive boat held up to 20 divers and was in good shape with a good crew. Kim saw a trumpet fish that was so large, she didn’t recognize it at first. Visibility was about 50 feet, temperature 73 degrees F. These dives were good dives in that Kim got to do some underwater navigation, use her safety sausage/reel and checkout her new dive gear. Also, she got to wrap up her OW2 course. The next day Kim and Bill dove under the Blue Heron Bridge. They rented their dive tanks from Force E Divers near the bridge. Kim and Bill saw lots of tropical fish and crustaceans while diving. Next time they dive the Blue Heron Bridge, they plan on spending more dive time under the eastern portion of the bridge.

**#2** Mark Vogel recently dove what was billed as a “Hammerhead” dive off Bimini, Bahamas. Supposedly, a lot of hammerhead sharks were to be in the dive area. Someone forgot to tell the hammerheads to show up. Mark said there were very few hammerheads and bulls around, but there were plenty of nurse sharks and remoras. To boot, Mark says the viz was terrible, results

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from his new camera were bad and to make matters worse, he had a cold the entire time and had to give up one day of diving. Better luck next time!



*Relaxing and eating at Guanabana's Restaurant before diving off Jupiter, Florida*

*For you Amateur Paleontologists, rank the animals listed below in evolutionary order from oldest ancestors to most recent. Answers are on the last page.*

*Alligator, Cockroach, Dinosaur, Horse, Human and Shark*

**Dippy Diver Award - For minor diving offenses.**

There were no nominees this meeting.

**Coprolite Diver Award - For more serious dive safety infractions.**

There were no nominees this meeting.

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Molasses Reef - Key Largo, FL



Horseshoe Beach  
Bermuda



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**Members present at the 7 March 2018 dive club meeting:**

Glen Akins, Bill Allen, Evan Ball, Bob Carmichael, Bill Davis, Richard and Sharon Green, Marshall Gross, Art LaRue, Mitch and Kathy Maxson, Monster and Annette Molyneux, Elmer Osborne, Rick Reckert, Chris Rule, Billy Schofield, Doc and Martha Smyk, Craig Stoops, Mark Vogel, Kim Walther, and Vanessa Wood.

**First Time Visitors to our Dive Club:** Chet Tomlinson, a dive instructor from iDive St. Augustine dive shop, and his wife Dawn Tomlinson. Chet is Kim Walther's dive instructor. Bruce Nelson, a friend of Craig Stoops, who hasn't dove in a while and is looking at getting back into diving



Flamingo Shell

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**The next Dive Club Meeting will be Wednesday, 4 April 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Golden Corral conference room, 11470 San Jose Boulevard, Mandarin.**

**The next Executive Board Meeting will be Wednesday, 28 March, 6:30 p.m. at the Bob Evans restaurant on San Jose, Blvd.**

### **NASJAX DIVE CLUB OFFICERS for 2018**

**President - Monster Molyneux**

**Vice President - Venessa Wood**

**Treasurer - Evan Ball**

**Secretary - Glen Akins**

**Web Master - Sharon Green**

**Safety Officer - Ben Storey**

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## Ocean Facts:

- 71% of the earth's surface is covered by ocean.
- 2,486 the most SCUBA divers to dive together at one time. It occurred off Malalayang Beach, Indonesia in 2009.
- 1,090 feet is the deepest SCUBA dive, achieved in 2014.
- 90% of an iceberg is submerged below the water's surface.
- 426 feet "How deep is your Love" deepest wedding ceremony 2014.
- 93 years old, the oldest man to SCUBA dive. He was certified at the age of 68.

### **7,000 Year Old Native American Remains Found off Venice, Florida.**

Almost all of our Dive Club members have dove offshore Venice, Florida looking for sharks' teeth and fossils. We're very familiar with what the bottom looks like in this area and the water visibility is normally not very good. I believe the following newspaper article will have special meaning to those that have dove offshore Venice.

Last October a 7,000 year old Native American ancestral burial site was located a quarter mile off Venice beach in about 20 feet of water. 7,000 years ago the earth's northern and southern latitudes were much colder than they are today with a substantial amount of northern and southern oceans frozen. As a result, oceans surrounding Florida were lower. The state of Florida was a lot wider than it is now. In fact the area off Venice where sharks' teeth and fossils are found was land and a river ran through this area. Researches believe the Native American remains found off Venice beach were buried in a freshwater pond about 7,000 years ago. This was during the early Archaic period. These remains are very old in that humans have only been in North America about 13,000 years. Finding a burial site like this is very rare. The archaeology site contains artifacts and an undetermined number of Native American remains. Peat at the bottom of the pond helped preserve the site according to the state's archaeological team. The location of the site is being kept private and divers are discouraged from diving on the site if found. It's a third degree felony to knowingly disturb, destroy, remove, vandalize or damage an unmarked human burial.

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**Answer to the Question on page 6.**

Sharks 400 million (m), Cockroach 350 m, American Alligator 150 m, Dinosaur 100 m, Horse 55 m, Humans 200,000 years (13,000 years in North America)

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NASJAX SCUBA CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS SPECIAL MEETING 7 MARCH 2018**

A special meeting was held after the regular dive club meeting 7 March 2018 to discuss and vote to ratify the 14 proposed changes to the dive club's Constitution and By-Laws. All changes were approved, except change 6 to the Constitution. It will remain in effect as stated in the Constitution dated 2/1/2017. Dive club members present at this meeting were; Glen Akins, Monster and Annette Molyneux, Elmer Osborne, Venessa Wood, Bob Carmichael, Mark Vogel, Marshall Gross and Rick Reckert.



*Glen Akins*  
*Dive Club Secretary*

