
Newsletter - Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

7 February 2018

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org



Crash Boat Beach Puerto Rico
Good Shore Diving & Picnicking
Glen Akins

From the Dive Club President

Greetings, divers!

February's meeting brought us an excellent presentation from Deputy Mike Chapman of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. Our sport is vast and there are countless variations in dive locations, dive conditions, dive equipment, and diving specialties. It benefits all of us to learn about other diving disciplines in order to become better at what we do. Learning and training never end! As we look ahead to more diving in the coming year, keep in mind the advice and warnings you hear from your fellow divers. Think, plan, practice, and be safe!

Monster Molyneux

Upcoming Dive Trips and Events

- * Marshall Gross is planning a dive trip to Cozumel, Mexico about May or June 2018. Your deposit is your airline ticket.
- * Kim Walther and Bill Davis plan on diving Devil's Den Spring 21 April 2018. This is Bill's birthday. They'll dive and have a cookout at the Spring. Dive Club members are invited to join them.
- * Mark Vogel will be diving with Hammerhead Sharks off Bimini, Bahamas in two weeks.

Guest Presentation by Deputy Mike Chapman of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department.

Mike began his dive training and certification about twenty years ago at the age of twelve. He stated the dive bug bit him at an early age and he's been an avid diver and student of diving ever since. When he was presented the opportunity to join the sheriff's department dive team, he jumped on it. His primary duty is that of a policeman and being on the dive team is a secondary position. Most of his diving with the sheriff's department is literally crawling on the bottom of inlets, ponds and rivers for submerged vehicles, guns, knives and bodies. Mike said feeling for things at zero visibility in mud and ooze isn't very glamorous and has the potential to be dangerous, but is rewarding. He gave an example when the Coast Guard called their dive team in to check out some large items in the St. Augustine inlet. The seas were very rough with a lot of current. They had to tie ropes from the dive boat to themselves to stay in position and for safety. When they found the large metal boxes the current was so strong they got tangled up in their ropes and air hoses. Mike said he had to cut the ropes to clear himself and surface. He said his dive team goes through a lot of dive training and preventative measures. Their goal is to stay safe. Mike closed his presentation by saying he highly recommends taking a Dive Rescue Course and when diving everybody stay on the same page always preparing for the worst.



Deputy Mike Chapman of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department

Safety Report - Ben Story Ben said he'll start condensing his email Safety Articles into one email each month.

Treasurer's Report - Evan Ball We have approximately \$900 in our dive club account. Future dive club expenditures include a two year website fee payment of \$216 coming up 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 and check. Make membership dues checks out to NASJAX SCUBA Diving Club. Dues fees \$30 single \$45 for two

Webmaster's Report - Sharon Green If you have some good dive photos, send them to Sharon. Pick out your best photos, not too many. We need new photos for our Website and Newsletter. Sharon will be changing our website format a little so we can get a better rate when we renew our subscription.

Secretary - Glen Akins We also need good photos to put in our monthly Newsletter. If you have dive photos, e-mail them to me, if not, you are going to have to look at mine. Check your dive information on the club roster, if you need to make a change, let me know.

Vice President - Venessa Wood is taking a cruise vacation to Barcelona, Spain. There will be no E-Board meeting in February.

President - Monster started the February Dive Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. by introducing Mike Chapman from the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. Next, Monster went over the night's agenda, then discussed dive weight belt safety. He talked about an accident where a female diver drowned in thirteen feet of water, because she was over-weighted. She didn't think to drop her weights. Monster demonstrated how simple it is to release your weight belt. He urged everybody to practice this procedure.

Dive Reports -

Key Largo, Florida



#1 **Bill Davis and Kim Walther recently made an Advanced Certification check out dive in Blue Grotto. Kim had a problem with her dive regulator not providing air pressure to her air gauge. The problem was in the first stage of the regulator. She added an extra air gauge to finish the dive. Kim said Virgil the turtle is still alive and well in the spring.**

#2 **On 15 January Marshall, Ben and Glen attended the Amigos Dive Center Dive Festival near Ichetucknee Springs. There were dive vendors, lots of divers, music and free food. We started off eating fresh fried Grouper fingers until the main food was ready. Marshall and Glen ate three packs of chips each, drank three sodas each and one hamburger each. Marshall beat Glen in the hot dog area, eating two dogs, while Glen only ate one. Glen beat Marshall in the dessert category though, eating three desserts to Marshall's one. This didn't cause Glen's double vision, he already had it. Ben wasn't a contender, he didn't eat much. We all skipped the fried squirrel, quail and raccoon. As always, these get togethers are a lot of fun and interesting. You meet a lot of divers and get a chance to hear dive stories from other people.**



Three Amigos at Amigos



Young Guest, Rat Snake & Ranger

Dippy Diver Award - Kim Walther for not checking her dive equipment at the upper level area of Blue Grotto. Anyone that's dove Blue Grotto knows it's a long way back up the hill to the parking area to get something. She waited until she carried everything down to the dock staging area to check her dive equipment. She had to go all the way back up the steps to get another dive gauge



Kim had to dive with two sets of gauges.

Coprolite Diver Award - there were no nominees this meeting.

Raffle Winners: Devin Tate - \$25 Divers' Supply Gift Certificate, Mike Chapman - New Dive Club T-Shirt, Art LaRue - \$25 Divers' Supply Gift Card, Bob Carmichael - Old Style T-Shirt

Members present at the 7 February 2018 dive club meeting:

Glen Akins, Evan Ball, Bob Carmichael, Bill Davis, Howard Feingold, Marshall Gross, Art LaRue, Mitch and Kathy Maxson, Les Michael, Monster and Annette Molyneux, Major Nimock, Elmer Osborne, Billy Schofield, Brandon Schofield, Jason Schofield, Ben Storey, Devin Tate, Vera Thomas, Mark Vogel, Kim Walther, and Vanessa Wood.

First Time Visitors to our Dive Club were: Mike Chapman who's been diving for about 20 years. Mike is a policeman with the St. John's County Sheriff's Department and on their Dive Team. He's also a dive instructor and likes to spearfish. Colleen Kelly was dive certified in 2016 and is NITROX certified. She found out about our dive club through Art LaRue. Cody Culpepper was dive certified in 2015. He is NITROX certified and an Advanced Diver. He found out about our dive club through a friend.

We hope to see all of you at our next dive club meeting 7 March.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.” Mark Twain

The next **Dive Club Meeting** will meet Wednesday, 7 March 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Golden Corral conference room, 11470 San Jose Boulevard, Mandarin. Mark your calendars, Craig Stoops, one of our dive club members, will give a presentation on mosquitos and related diseases at this meeting.

A meeting to discuss and vote on changes to our Dive Club Constitution and By-Laws will follow the regular meeting.

The next **Executive Board Meeting** will be in March.

- Most of us know what the term “as the crow flies” means, the most direct route, but do you know where the term came from? Before navigational equipment the British Navy would keep a cage of crows on board sailing ships and release one periodically. The crows would always fly directly toward land and the sailors would steer that direction.

- Beginning at 30 feet ocean depth, we start losing the colors red and yellow. Blood appears to be blue at that depth.

- In Florida you are never more than 80 miles from the sea



Waterfalls on the island of Grenada
from Art LaRue's dive trip



Bill Davis and Kim Walther
at Blue Grotto with
Virgil the Turtle



NASJAX SCUBA 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

To see our website go to www.nasjaxscubadivers.org