

NASJAX SCUBA CLUB

April 2017 Newsletter

KEY LARGO, FLORIDA



From the Dive Club President ...

We had an excellent dive club meeting last night. Attendance was very good with a lot of former members and visitors. Good to see Michael and Janice Sieble, Eric Wilson, Tom Follis, Evan Ball and Monster Molyneux at our meeting. A lot of club members have made dives since the last meeting, which is good.

Mr. Hal Watts was our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting and informative presentation. He started SCUBA diving in 1955, when SCUBA diving was still fairly primitive. Hal showed us some of the dive equipment he used in the his early days. One thing in

particular that was interesting was an empty clorox bottle he used for buoyancy control! Hal said he's always had a special interest in technical and deep diving, and using regular air instead of mixed gases. I guess all of this didn't effect him much. He's in very good shape to be 81 years old and still diving.

Glen Akins

UPCOMING DIVE TRIPS

9 April - Venice Sharks' Teeth Dive, Venice Beach, Florida
Canceled due to predicted high winds and bad visibility.

Memorial Day Weekend - Blue Heron Bridge Doc & Martha
High tides look to be at good times over that weekend, midday.

Meet the Maple Leaf Divers Friday, 14 April 1200 to 4:00 p.m. at the Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road. Listen to those that dove on the USS Maple Leaf and see artifacts they brought up. The Maple Leaf was sunk off Mandarin Point about 1863 by a Confederate mine.

Treasurer's Report

\$741.37 as of 5 April 2017 (includes \$63 from the raffle).

Training Officer's Report

Be sure and get your dive gear checked out before you start diving this season. Equipment malfunction could cut your dive short or be dangerous. It's worth the money to get it checked out. Anyone interested in a May Rescue Diver Course contact Vera Thomas as soon as you can.

Dive Reports

Glen and Elmer dove **Troy Springs** at Branford, FL. It's a good place for a checkout dive. It's fairly large and goes down to about 80 feet.

The water had a greenish tint to it due to the algae. Saw lots of turtles and the ribs from the old steamship sunk at the beginning of the Civil War.

Rick and Major dove **West Palm Beach**. The temperature was 77 degrees. They saw a whale shark and lots of cobia!

Howard spent two weeks in **Cayman Brac**. He only got to make a couple of dives due to the wind blowing too much (18 - 22 mph). Good thing they had plenty of beer on the island.

Bryon Follis and Laura Childs dove they **Keys**. Visibility wasn't great, but good enough to see lots of Goliath Grouper and other fish. Temperature was 76 degrees. Papa Tom Follis earned his Advanced Certification Card. Congratulations Tom!

Mark Vogel dove **Venice**, FL for sharks teeth. Temperature was 68 degrees with good visibility. They found lots of small teeth and one woman found a very good large tooth. He dove with Aquanutz.

Ben Storey made multiple dives to **Ginny Springs, Jug Hole and Blue Grotto**. He took a lot of photos and cave dove at Blue Grotto. Had to be careful due to all the silt. He also saw an old bathtub inside the cave. He didn't say whether anyone took a bath or not. Congratulations to Ben for recently getting Instructor Certified!

Sue Fisher dove off **Tavernier Key** where they had a fish feed. She had to cut her dive short due to a BC inflator valve malfunction.

New Business

A Big thanks to all club members that volunteered to help Art LaRue with the dive club's shirts, banner, raffle give aways, etc.

Mitch Maxson - large suitcase.

Venessa Wood - two boxes of t-shirts.

Sue Fisher - box of polo shirts. Also donated a large suitcase.

Howard - club banner and rod.

Carol Hughes - coprolite and dippy diver awards.

Billy Schofield - two signs.

Elmer Osborne - video projector and large screen.

Art will still carry a couple of other things.

We did a raffle with lots of winners. We'll have our Quarterly Raffle in June with one or two upscale prizes.

This year's Annual Dive Club Dinner will be 14 December 2017 at the Orange Park "Best Bet" Kennel Club.

CLUB OFFICERS

President - Glen Akins
Vice President - Art LaRue
Treasurer - Howard Feingold
Safety Officer - Rick Reckert
Training Officer - Vera Thomas
Web Master - Sharon Green

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dive Club - 3 May at 7:00 p.m.
at the Golden Corral

E Board - 19 April location TBA

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org



Hal Watts
April 2017

