



The Official Newsletter of
THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

June 2006

The Anchor Line

Having just returned from Bonaire May 13th it was real interesting to open the June issue of *Sport Diver* magazine to read PADI Diving Society Manager Theresa Gulledge's account of the time she spent on the island.

It always feels special when landing in Bonaire. As you're approaching the airport you begin to pick out different points that you know because you've been there before. You see those tall, what appear to be antennas, and know how close you are to A Thousand Steps and what a great dive it was from the boat. Much better from the boat than the time you tried to do it as a shore dive and then you see the Town Pier and remember Orlando, one of the Divemasters at Divi and the great night dive you did under the pier. Those crazy Tarpon hanging out over your shoulder waiting for your dive light to reflect off their next meal.

You can pick out Captain Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive and then of course the unmistakable Divi Flamingo Beach & Casino that you'll call home for the next week.

You get through immigration, thank God that your luggage has arrived and head for the resort which is about five minutes from the airport. On my past couple trips to Bonaire I've flown Air Jamaica from JFK through Montego Bay into Bonaire. It's a great flight leaving Kennedy around 8am and arriving in Bonaire around 2:30 in the afternoon. The Air Jamaica fleet of aircraft

seems to be very well maintained, clean, pleasant flight attendants and they still serve a meal. Best of all Red Stripe is only \$2.00 a bottle on the plane. At the airport in Montego Bay you'll pay \$5.00 at the bar. You actually have time to check in at the dive shop and arrange your orientation for the next morning so you can start diving !

For those that haven't been to Bonaire everyone, no matter what you're level of proficiency goes through an orientation and check out dive. One of the neat things about the orientation is that you get this medallion that you have to tie wrap on your BC. This medallion is your only proof that you've paid you're Marine Park fee when doing a shore dive and a Ranger approaches to check your status. So put your ego on a shelf somewhere, get properly weighted so you don't damage the coral and start diving. Hell, you've only got a week to dive and there are more dive sites around the island than you're going to have time for on this trip so do your giant stride off the dock and swim out to Calabas Reef and check it out.

I've been diving with Divi for a couple of years and have been very pleased with their operation. The staff is very well organized and diving isn't all about tips from the tourists. At the end of the week you'll want to show your appreciation to these dive-masters. On one dive alone I took my quota of seahorse and frogfish pictures. It seemed like Roger knew exactly where to find the critters that I wanted to take pictures of.

The whole week was made up of one great event after another. Boats dives every morn-
(Continued Next Page)

ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED

ing, shore dives in the afternoon and evening. Great meals in local restaurants: Try the ribs or garlic shrimp in Its Raining Fishes or the fish market at Salsa on Thursday evenings where you can pick out what you want to eat and the chef grills it for you. Be prepared to spend some money at the fish market because you'll want to try everything from the skewered shrimp and calamari to the variety of fresh catch and lobster tails.

On one afternoon dive we were able to hook up with a private charter from Maine that had come down for the week. Now there is only one single engine boat in the Divi fleet of five and we were on that craft for this outing. As we approached the dive site I noticed a puff of white smoke from the exhaust area and the boat came to a rapid halt and couldn't be started again. We were stuck drifting in those shark infested waters with no way to reach shore. (Simply writer's license and imagination). Another dive operator approached to give us a hand and began towing us back when who starts yelling at me but **Sue Drafahl** getting ready to teach some more underwater photography magic.

After my computer went ballistic on Thursday morning I figured nothing else could possibly go wrong with my equipment but like usual I was wrong. After doing a kayak tour of the mangroves Friday morning we decided we could get in one more dive before the 24 hour clock till flight time started ticking. Another giant stride off the dock and we're headed out to the reef to see what we can see. The only problem is that I can't see anything except the water cascading into my mask. As fast as I clear it the water is rising again and I'm starting to get mad. The weird thing is that I can feel air escaping through the top of my mask but can't understand where it's coming from. Radha tries to get my attention as there's something she wants me to see but it's hopeless as I'm starting to feel water blind. I head back to the dock and the exit point still not being able to figure out why I'm having

so much trouble since I've been wearing this mask all week. The first thing I do is yank the mask off and find that a chunk of the frame has fallen out and there are a series of fractures surrounding the frame. No wonder I couldn't keep the water out ! As the air was leaking out the difference in pressure allowed water to pour in from the bottom. I'm real happy that didn't happen on one of the earlier deeper dives during the week.

By the way, on that last dive Radha was trying to show me an octopus that had nestled in a coral head with a tentacle or two just hanging out for aesthetic purposes and me with no camera or the ability to see it anyway !

So when are you going to Bonaire ?

Don Reynolds
President

Clam Bake
At
Tino's Country Manor
Wednesday, June 14, 2006
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Garlic Bread
Cup of Chowder
Baked Clams or Clams on a Half Shell
Slaw
Corn on the Cob
Baked Potato
Lobster
Or
Shrimp Scampi
Or
Fried Shrimp
\$30.00
(tax & tip included)
Reservations required
Call Lisa by 6/12/06
914/769-7236

June Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th
 Hans Walters, Shark Researcher

Social Calendar

June – White Water Rafting Trip- Saturday
 TBA. Lobster and Clam Bake-6/14
August – Canoe trip on the Delaware River,
 Saturday TBA. TSSC Picnic @ Todd's Point
 TBA (a repeat of a terrific party!)
September – Regatta/B-B-Q Saturday 9/2.
 Beach Cleanup 9/16. White Water Rafting.
 (Dates to be announced)
October – Pasta Night before the meeting 10/11.
 Bike trip Saturday 10/7
November – Harvest Brunch, Pete's Saloon
 Sunday 11/5.
December – Wine Tour 12/15 -> 12/17 Dec
 Social/Holiday Party Saturday 12/9.

DIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Location
June 18-19	<i>Daybreaker</i> , Gloucester, MA
June 25	Minnewaska State Park
July 9-16	Dominica
July 30-31	<i>Daybreaker</i>
Aug 27-28	<i>Giant Stride</i> , Rye, NH
Sept 3	Dutch Springs, Bethlehem, PA
Sept 9-11	St. Lawrence Seaway
Sept 24	Ft. Wetherill
Oct 15-16	<i>Giant Stride</i>

The Scuba Sports Club
 P.O. Box 644
 Rye, NY 10580

OFFICERS

President Don Reynolds
 Vice President Bob Bak
 Treasurer Paul Dengler
 Secretary Gwyn Grant
 Past President Gregg McCauley

DIRECTORS

Executive Vreni Roduner
 Dive Planning Bob Bak
 Education/Safety Lada Simek
 Enviro/Legislative Rick D'Amico
 Membership Noel Lopez
 Newsletter Rick D'Amico
 Program vacant
 Social Pat Forgacs
 Director at Large Mark Mays

LEGAL ADVISOR Robert Schragger

WRECK DIVING

ADVISOR Jeff Pagano
 FOUNDER Armand Zigahn
 CO-FOUNDER Soliman Shenouda

Official Dive Club
 of BENEATH THE SEA

