



SeaDevil Divers

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Hello SeaDevils!

If you missed last months DEW Scuba, you missed some spectacular pictures of the island and sea life of Bonaire. **Lynn Samuel** did a terrific job both with her photography and with her presentation. She pointed out dive sites and accesses that I didn't know were there. I sure hope that the next time I'm in Bonaire, I'll have Lynn as a guide. Some of you are lucky if you're going with her in this January.

Our next meeting has been moved to Tuesday, the 9th of December, because I will be in Freeport on that Monday. Stop by, I'm sure we'll have some great stories to tell. We will have a guest speaker, **Sean Henserson** from the National Aquarium in DC. He will be there to tell us what resources they have to feed our marine interest.

This past month we had a very successful trip to Blue Stone Quarry. The water was in the low 60's, very comfortable, and the quarry was exceedingly bright with about 20 - 25 ft visibility. They have put in a lot of river rock which really helps visibility in the shallow areas.

The quarry is over 16 acres and sports numerous wrecks. I personally visited two sunken cabin cruisers and a PT Boat at 50ft where there was plenty of daylight. No need for any lights. There are plenty of fish in the shallows particularly; Blue Gill, Bass, Carp, and some good sized Catfish.

Accompanying me on the trip were **Michael Marks** and **James Mayson** who helped me finish a Rescue Diver Class. Congratulations are in order to **Jeff Stoner**, **Eric Hauser**, **Nick Laiacona**, and **Joe Elder** who took another step in their dive training. Great work guys! And thanks to **Tony Feldmesser**

Editorial Comments

and **Jim Voskovitch** who worked hard to get the trip up but unfortunately had to bow out.

Congratulations to **JoAnn Dix** who joined the ranks of certified open water divers this past month. Another Freeport initiate!

We have a good group going to Freeport on December 4th and there are still some seats. If you interested please call and I think we can get you in.

I had an exciting time this past week! I participated in a biology course on sharks given by University of Miami professor, **Dr. Samuel Gruber**, in Bimini. The course involved almost 30 hours of lectures over 5 days and four snorkel dives with several species of shark. I really learned a lot. Come to DEW Scuba and let me tell you of the night dive with an 8 foot Tiger Shark!

Many thanks to **Nick Laiacona** who has taken it upon himself to bolster my web site presence. Nick has added some frames to allow easier navigation and will be adding pages which will allow you to post comments, gear swaps notices, dive site reviews, and SeaDevilish lies about your friends.

There will also be a Photo Gallery and **John Morgan** has offered me use of his state of the art scanner to post any pictures or collages you may wish to share with the group.

Matrimonially, congratulations to **Marlene Knowles** now Mrs. **John Covington**. John is not yet a diver but I'm sure Marlene won't let that stay that way for long! And to **Nicos** and **Martina Afedulides**. Best of luck to you both and lots and lots of safe diving!

Thanks so much to all SeaDevils for your kindness and assistance. See you at Awful's...

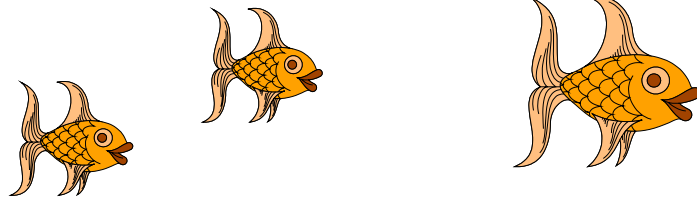
--Chip



CHECK IT OUT!

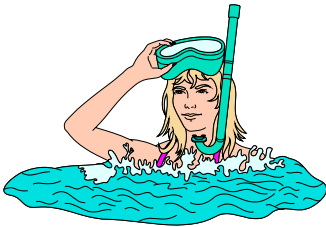
- Class Information & Schedule
- Dive Trips
- Recent Happenings
- DEW Scuba
- Special Features
- Dive Tips
- Web Site

Dive Trips



December '97

Freeport, Grand Bahama - December 4-8. Chip Earle leads another all-star group back to Freeport for three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. The cost is \$668 and includes airfare from Richmond, accommodations and 9 boat dives. Open Water Certification dives and Advanced Open Water course available. Contact Chip.



January '98

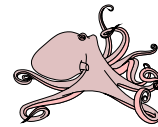
Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles - January 2-10. Unlimited and the greatest shore diving anywhere! You'll love the freedom! \$1,350 includes airfare, accommodations, and diving! Call University Dive Center @ 296-6303, or E-mail: UDiveVA@aol.com.

February '98

Belize - February 98. Chip is working on a land-based trip to southern Belize. No instruction will be offered and Advanced Diver Certification is required. Contact Chip.

March '98

Little Cayman Beach Resort - March 7-14. James Mayson is taking an intimate group of very lucky divers to the Caribbean's very best wall diving site. Call James at 974-1556 or E-mail: hscjdm@aol.com.



April '98

Freeport, Grand Bahama. Chip Earle leads another all-star group back to Freeport for three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. Airfare from Richmond, accommodations and 9 boat dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Courses are available. Contact Chip.



June '98

Belize Agressor - June 20-27. Luxury, new, state-of-the-art 1220 ft Yacht. Blue Hole, Lighthouse Reef. Five and a half days of unlimited diving. \$1,595 + airfare. Call University Dive Center 296-6303 or E-mail UDiveVA@aol.com.



Want help putting your own trip together? Call Keely at Peregrine Travel. 296-9000

Looking for more information on our trips? ...

You will find complete trip details and links to the dive operators, hotels, island information and much more when you DIVE INTO THE WEB.....

<http://www.SeaDevilDivers.com>

Clash of the Titans: Whale vs. Shark *(There's More!)*

SHARK LAB, SOUTH BIMINI, BAHAMAS (SeaDevil News)-
- Well isn't it always the way?!? It appears that the news services got the story wrong. Yes, and Orca did attack a small (10ft) Great White Shark! It was a rare and spectacular meeting of these two species and the Orca did kill it.

Dean Grubbs, Ph.D., working with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA., arrived at the site minutes after the biologist left to view the incident. His subsequent interviews with the biologists involved, revealed that there were two Orcas but they were both adults. The smaller of the two attacked and killed the lone immature White Shark.

In the attack the shark's abdomen was torn open. The liver which is lighter than water due to the oils it contains floated to the surface. The heavier body sank to the ocean floor.

Neither of the Orcas ate any of the shark including the liver. They played with it a bit on the surface. Dr. Grubbs speculates that the Orcas may have been feeding when the White Shark arrived on the scene and took the intrusion personally. As a specialist in the area of sharks, Dr. Grubbs believes that the White Shark, an immature specimen and not a seasoned hunter, was probably not aware that the Orcas were danger.

It seems that even White Shark have lessons to learn in the very unforgiving world of nature.

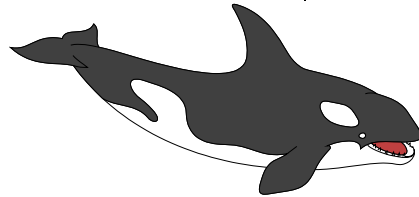
Rare Deep-Sea Fish Brought to Surface Alive!

(Rodale's) The Associated Press reports that a team of divers near Curacao has gone to the depths of the sea and brought back an apricot bass alive. The tiny, orange-mottled fish is now swimming in an aquarium and is the first of its kind to do so.

The Curacao Seaquarium announced Wednesday that its exploration team had dived to 300 feet to bring up the apricot bass near Curacao. The divers spotted the bass Saturday while on an exploratory dive and captured it inside a tiny acrylic cylinder. It took three days to bring the fish to the surface safely - any faster and the change in pressure would have killed it.

The 1 ½-inch-long fish was first recorded in 1961 and has since been spotted washed up on the shores of Cuba and the Bahamas - but never alive, aquarium curator Paul Hoetjes said.

"This discovery really extends (the fish's) territory, which is really exciting. It's really doing fine" in its new home at the Seaquarium, Hoetjes said. "It can adapt remarkably."



The fish, whose scientific name is *Plectranthias garrupellus*, has bulging eyes and brilliant orange and red markings across its white body.

Largest Intact Shipwreck Surveyed at 390 Feet

(Rodale's) An international team of divers has finished the first full-scale survey of the *Britannic*, sister ship of the ill-fated *Titanic*, according to the Associated Press. The divers say it is the first extensive, in-person survey of the biggest shipwreck still on the world's sea floor.

Using a mixture of gases in their tanks, they were able to film around and inside the wreck for up to 20 minutes at a time. Due to the great depth, they also had to spend between 3 ½ to four hours decompressing and logged a total of about 40 man hours underwater.

Their hope is to pull from the depths some clues to the downing of the *Britannic*. Video footage and metal fragments could show whether it was a torpedo or mine that sank the liner, and explain why the ship sank so quickly - just 57 minutes after an explosion tore a hole in its bow on November 21, 1916.

Lying at a depth of 390 feet, the wreck has been visited just twice before: first by Jacques Cousteau, who discovered its location in the late 1970s, then by marine explorer Robert Ballard, who photographed the wreck using underwater robots in 1995.

Ballard has proposed installing cameras on the wreck to create an Internet museum, in which images would be available via a computer link.

"It will be easy in the future to access for all people, instead of just macho divers - they're a dying breed," he said. Largest Intact Shipwreck Surveyed at 390.

Check out Rodale's feature Daily News at <http://www.scubadiving.com>



Class Info & Schedule



To register for any class or to inquire about any facet of the training, please contact Chip at 296-0455 or E-mail: Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com

PADI Open Water Scuba Diver (call)
 PADI Advanced Open Water
 Freeport, Grand Bahama Dec 4-8
 PADI Medic First Aid (call)
 PADI Rescue Diver

May have a class during December and early January. Please call.

PADI Open Water: This entry level program is designed to develop a competent recreational diver. The program consists of 5 classroom modules and 5 confined water (pool) modules after which certification is awarded upon completing 4 Open Water training dives. These dives are usually done on the weekend at one of the local quarries although they can also be accomplished on one of our local or Caribbean dive trips. Weekday dives can be arranged and it is possible to refer the student to another PADI instructor at a dive destination of the student's choice. The program costs \$300 and includes all course materials, confined water dives, equipment rental and certification fees. The cost of the Open Water dives depends, of course, on where they are done. Students need to provide mask, fins, and snorkel.

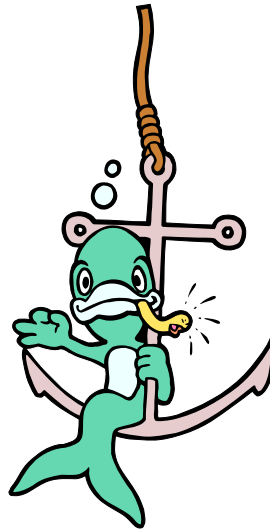
PADI Advanced Open Water: This class provides a sampler of five specialty areas of diving. The core dives include navigation, night and deep diving. Two other dives are selected from among numerous specialties including multilevel, computer, naturalist, peak buoyancy, search & recovery, photography, boat, etc.

For classes held in the Charlottesville area, we usually do peak buoyancy and search & recovery. For those we do in the Caribbean, the choice is usually naturalist and multilevel. The course fee

includes the book, C-card and instruction, is \$150 or \$100 if done as part of one of our Caribbean trips. The cost of rental equipment and the direct cost of the dives are not included and will depend on the needs and desires of the student.

**Advanced class trip is planned for:
 Freeport, Grand Bahama December 4-8**

PADI Medic First Aid: This is a very good all around first aid course including CPR with particular emphasis on diving related injuries. The course takes one full day (8 hours) and is usually held on the weekend. The cost is \$95 including all course materials and certification card.



We Promise...You'll Get
 Hooked

PADI Rescue Diver: This course instructs the student on how to handle and assist in handling dive emergency situations. It sets the stage for PADI leadership training by incrementally encouraging the diver to take responsibility for others in the group and for the diving environment. The course includes academic modules and open water skills development followed by scenario enactment by the candidates to simulate real rescue situations. PADI Medic First Aid is suggested and a current CPR certification is required for certification as a Rescue Diver. The cost including the textbook, C-card and instruction is \$200.

Private & semi-private lessons with flexible schedules are available for most courses. Please contact Chip

Dive Training Begins With Physical Fitness!



Call Vicki Stewart at 978-3800

SeaDevil Cyber Divers

Join the hundreds of divers in the area who receive instant updates as to what is going on... DIVE into the WEB! Lots of great informational sites, reviews of equipment, dive sites, and easy access to your buddies wherever they are. Coming in the near future you'll be able to add yourself to the list online, but for now just drop me a note and tell me you want to be added up.

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Don't Just Do it...



DEW IT!

AT



TUESDAY-DECEMBER 9, 1997 - 7PM

Guest Speaker! **Sean Henserson** from the National Aquarium in DC will be here to tell us of the services they can offer. ... The **Freeport Gang** will return with tales to tell, and **Chip** and **Sean** will talk about the Shark Course they attended in Bimini

Everyone with an interest is welcome, so please bring a friend. Remember, SeaDevils...

“We DEW Scuba”



DEW Scuba

Tuesday, December 9th

&

Monday, January 12th

7PM

