



# SeaDevil Divers

Volume 2 Issue 1

January 1998

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## Happy New Year SeaDevils!

Here's wishing you the happiest of New Years. I have had a great year, not the least of which was the success of our little group over the last six months and I thank you for all the support you have given. This coming year looks like it will be spectacular and I hope that in a small way I can help you have a great year too!

Thanks so much to **Sean Hendersen** from the **National Aquarium** for his presentation at the last DEW Scuba. Hopefully we will have an opportunity to visit him in DC and take him up on his offer for a *behind the scenes* tour (see page 5).

This coming Dew Scuba on January 12 will feature **Gary Eisenhuth** with **International Field Studies, Inc.** Gary will discuss a unique program he has been running at Forfar Station in Andros. Please mark your calendar to attend. Andros has some spectacular wall diving and is well within our reach.

This past month another adventurous group took the junket to Freeport. **Christine Thompson** and **Bill Wortman** completed work on their Advance Open Water and **JoAnn Dix** did a great job on her first real open water dive trip! **Charlie Boyle**, **Page Vlasis** and **Michael Marks** braved the shark feed dive. **John Morgan** and **JoAnn** joined Page and Charlie to dive with and be kissed by dolphins! Perennial Freeport Gang member, **James Mayson** once again missed diving Theo's Wreck! Newcomer to Freeport, **Tony Feldmesser** hammered out 10 dives with **Chip Earle**. The next Freeport trip will be April 23-27 and will feature a PADI Cavern Diver

## Editorial Comments

Specialty for the first two people to sign up!

**Christine Thompson** left for St. John upon her return from Freeport. She will be working on a day sailing charter boat for the next six weeks with **John Frazer**, whom some of you met at the September DEW Scuba.

Local diver, **Colin Krause**, has landed a divemaster job at the **School for Field Studies** on South Caicos. He is now finishing up his Rescue Diver with **Rob Brooks** and **Jeff Mikkelsen**. He'll do his divemaster on site at South Caicos. Tough break, huh??

A large group will be leaving on January 2nd for Bonaire with **Lynn Samuel**, **Allen Graves**, and **Lincoln Burke**. Hopefully Lynn will have some slides to share with us when they return. So snap away, Lynn!

**Teresa Olivo** will also be going to Bonaire this month. She is traveling down with **John Wall** and a group from **The Dive Shop** in Vienna. Have a great time!

I, well I'm going to go down to Blue Stone Quarry on January 3rd & 4th and then on to Belize on January 31st. If you're looking to get wet anytime give me a call!

Well that's about it. Again thank you very much for everything in 1997 and may you have the very best Goin' Divin' New Year! Please don't forget ... DEW Scuba... See you at Awful's...

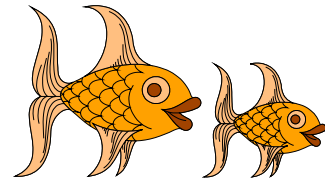
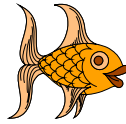
--Chip

### CHECK IT OUT!

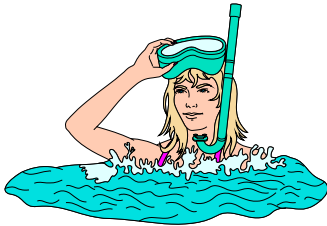
- Class Information & Schedule
- DEW Scuba
- Dive Trips
- Special Features
- Recent Happenings
- Dive Tips
- Web Site

## Dive Trips

### “We Schedule, We Go!”



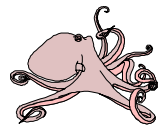
**January 2-10, '98 Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles.** Unlimited and the greatest shore diving anywhere! You'll love the freedom! \$1,350 includes airfare, accommodations, and diving! Call University Dive Center @ 296-6303, or E-mail: [UDiveVA@aol.com](mailto:UDiveVA@aol.com).



**January 3-4, '98 Blue Stone Quarry, Greensboro, NC - Jan 3-4, '98** Rescue class going down to complete the certification. Great chance to break in that first dive of the New Year! Everyone is welcome. \$120 includes hotel, quarry fees, air refills, breakfasts, snacks and drinks. Just bring your gear and some tanks.

**January 31 - February 7, '98. Blue Marlin Lodge at South Water Cay, Belize** - No instruction & Advanced Diver Certification is required. Contact Chip.

**March 7-14, '98 Little Cayman Beach Resort.** 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](mailto:hscjdm@aol.com).



**April 23-27, '98 Freeport, Grand Bahama. PADI Cavern Certification Available!! (only 2 spots)** Join the **Freeport Gang** for three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. Airfare from Richmond, Accomodations and 9 Boat Dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available. Call Chip 984-4489 Email [Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com](mailto:Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com)

**June or July '98 (formative) Providenciales, Turks & Caicos** More next month!

**August 27-31, '98 Freeport, Grand Bahama** Cap off your summer with three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. Airfare from Richmond, Accomodations and 9 Boat Dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available.

**November 26-30, '98 THANKSGIVING!! Freeport, Grand Bahama** After that great turkey dinner, relax on the flight to Grand Bahama! Come with Chip for three days of diving and a day of just sun and fun. Inclusive of airfare from Richmond, Accomodations and 9 Boat Dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available.



Want help with dive travel?  
Keely Vienne, Rescue Diver  
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 at

<http://www.SeaDevilDivers.com>

## In Pittsburgh, efforts to save coral reefs

PITTSBURGH (November 24, 1997 11:35 a.m. EST <http://www.nando.net>) - Rainbow-colored coral reefs are among the most beautiful forms of life in the Earth's oceans. They also are among the most endangered, prey to the profit-driven activities of man, marine experts say.

Around the world, coral is being killed. Mining of coral, damage from ships' anchors, pollution and over-fishing are some of the things that threaten the existence of reefs in the next century.

But there is still hope. In an effort to save the reefs, marine experts are growing coral in greenhouses under lightbulbs—not along the coast of sunny California or the beaches of Florida but in Pittsburgh, where the closest ocean is 500 miles away.

The Pittsburgh Zoo is on the "cutting edge" of coral propagation, said Jim Prappas, curator of its Aqua-Zoo, which he said has the largest coral collection in the country.

"Other institutions are just starting to get into this," he said. "Pittsburgh is a forerunner. ... If we can do it here, we can be a good role model for everyone else."

Coral propagation has been a project at the Pittsburgh Zoo for several months in conjunction with 1997 being named "International Year of the Reef" by the World Conservation Union and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Prappas said the biggest offenders in terms of destroying reefs are Third World countries. Selling coral to pet stores and large aquariums and for purposes like biomedical research is a lucrative business, he said.

"Our mission here is conservation," he said. "We want to reduce the amount of coral that is now taken from the wild. Though coral mining is outlawed in U.S. waters, it is widely practiced in other parts of the world."

According to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, less than one-third of the world's reefs are considered to be in stable condition. An additional 30 percent are considered likely to decline within the next 20 years.

Prappas said reef deterioration is a threat to oceans and seas because reefs are home to nearly a million species of marine life.

Currently the zoo is supplying coral free-of-charge to other institutions for exhibit purposes. Prappas said it should start selling coral to those institutions, as well as pet stores and biomedical researchers, within a few months.

Ken Billin, one of the zoo's greenhouse keepers, said coral is being studied because some species have cancer-fighting properties that could be helpful to humans as well as sunscreen properties.

Prappas said the zoo hopes to support biomedical projects in the near-future by letting medical students and scientists use its coral collection for research purposes.

"The medical community foots the bill now to research coral, but we can let them come here," he said. "Right now, they use coral from the wild."

The zoo receives small coral "cuttings" from wholesalers who get them from the ocean. Some hobbyists who have their own private collections have donated cuttings to the zoo.

Coral reproduces in two ways: sexual and asexual. The former is done with eggs and sperm that are released by coral and meet in the water by chance.

Most of the zoo's propagation is asexual. A coral cutting is attached to a surface in a greenhouse and can grow to "limitless" proportions, Prappas said.

Funding for the project was provided by the H.J. Heinz Co. Foundation.

"As this project grows, we'll be able to supply data about coral that isn't even out there yet," Prappas said.

Check out Nando Times at  
<http://www.nando.net>



## Class Info & Schedule

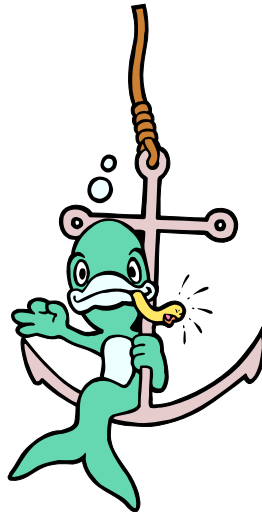


To register for any class or to inquire about any facet of the training, please contact Chip at 296-0455 or Email: [Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com](mailto:Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com)

PADI Open Water Scuba Diver	March TBA
PADI Advanced Open Water	Freeport, Grand Bahama
PADI Medic First Aid	TBA
PADI Rescue Diver	TBA
PADI Divemaster	March TBA
PADI Master Diver & Specialties	

**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. It is also possible to arrange a referral 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,



We Promise...You'll Get Hooked

etc.

The course fee which includes the book, C-card and instruction, is \$150 locally or \$100 if done as part of one of our Caribbean trips. The cost of equipment and the cost of the dives are not included.

**Advanced class trip is planned for:**  
**Freeport, Grand Bahama April 23-27**

**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.

**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.

**PADI Divemaster:** Full professional qualification with the world's largest certification agency. Class starting for spring. Please call for more information. Begin the self study portion today!

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

Need to get Open Water certified before spring?

### The University Dive Center

NAUI & PADI

Two Weekend Format  
February 19th - 29th  
March 26th - April 5th

West End Shops

296-6306

### Dive Training Begins With Physical Fitness!



**Call Vicki Stewart - 978-3800**

## Bahamian Ecology Course Offered by PVCC -

Piedmont Virginia Community College is offering a lecture series on sub-tropical ecology during the spring semester. This course is an overview of marine ecology in the Bahamas and Caribbean, and provides the interested adventurer with knowledge to enhance future dive trips.

Seagrass, sand flat, mangrove, and coral reef habitats are reviewed. Major groups of marine invertebrates and marine fishes are emphasized. Principles of oceanography and Bahamian geology are introduced.

Companioning this course is a field studies program in Andros in May of 1998. The course is a week long exploration and sailing adventure.

This is a one-credit course, meets 3:30 to 5:30 pm Wednesday evenings, and begins February 11. Team instructors are our own Norma Diehl and John Walsh. Questions? Call Norma or John at PVCC Registration: 804-961-5264

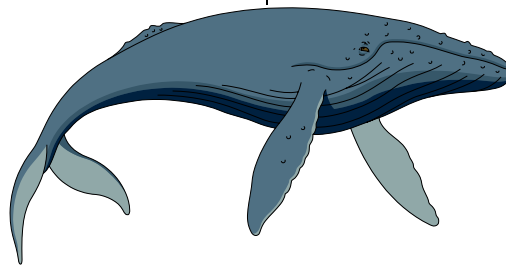


## Tropical Marine Biology Field Course

Andros is the largest island in the Bahamas but is one of the most undeveloped. Set between the Florida Channel and Tongue of the Ocean. Andros offers some of the best diving in the Bahamas; shallow reefs, big walls and cavernous blue holes. Andros is also noted for a diverse land ecology; rare birds and reptiles, mangrove estuaries.

To this rich environment Gary Eisenhuth brings young students hoping to learn more about the marine ecology and to enjoy the opportunity to explore the island and its beautiful snorkeling and dive sites. Gary represents International Field Studies, Inc. which owns and operates Forfar Field Station in the northern part of Andros.

Gary's focus is on providing high school students a unique opportunity to learn marine biology and experience this wonderful environment. Currently working with children at Murray High School in Charlottesville, Gary works to provide scholarships to under privileged but talented and inquisitive children.



Gary will be our guest speaker at DEW Scuba on Monday the 12th of January. Gary will discuss his program in greater detail and how it might be adapted to other groups including adult scuba divers, and other interested groups throughout the area.



## Aquarium Field Trip

Since Sean Henderson's interesting talk at last DEW Scuba many of us have been considering a day trip early in 1998 to visit the Baltimore Aquarium and the National Aquarium in Washington DC. Sean has promised a full service, behind the scenes look at what all goes on at commercial aquarium. It promises to be a really wonderful experience for those of us who would like to know more about the ocean environment.

The tentative trip agenda would be to leave early one Saturday morning and car pool to Baltimore. Spend the balance of the morning and early afternoon at the Baltimore Aquarium, then drive back to Washington to visit Sean. Dinner for those interested at a fine Washingtonian restaurant and then return to Charlottesville. Sound like a plan? Come by DEW Scuba where we will attempt to judge the interest and set a date.

## Whale Watching Adventure

Search juvenile humpback and fin whales along the Virginia beach coast where these larger-than-life creatures have made the food-rich waters of the Chesapeake Bay an annual winter destination. You may also see brown pelicans, Northern gannets, double-breasted cormorants and other sea birds, as well as local landmarks such as the historic Cape Henry Lighthouse. Whale sightings not guaranteed. \$14.00 adults and \$12 for children (11 and under).

January 10- March 1: Saturday and Sunday and Wednesdays and Fridays (3:30 p.m.) Monday holidays: January 19 and February 16 (all day)

### Virginia Marine Science Museum

E-mail: [va-marine-science-museum@va-beach.com](mailto:va-marine-science-museum@va-beach.com)  
Web site: [www.va-beach.com/va-marine-science-museum](http://www.va-beach.com/va-marine-science-museum)

**Don't Just Do it...**



**DEW IT!**

AT



**Monday, January 12th - 7PM**

Guest Speaker! **Gary Eisenhuth** from International Field Studies, Inc. will be here to tell us of his marine biology course in Andros. The course is tailored to high school students but could be adapted for our group. Andros is noted for spectacular wall diving and is essentially untouched by commercial tourism.

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

**“We DEW Scuba”**



## SeaDevil Divers

300 Preston Avenue, Suite 410  
Charlottesville, VA 22902



**DEW Scuba**

**Monday, January 12th**

**Monday, February 9th**

**Monday, March 9th**

**7PM**



**Address Correction Requested**