



'DILLO DIVER

GOIN' DOWN SINCE 1984



Volume 21, Issue 9

www.scubadillo.org



New Members

No New Members.

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Dema McNew	11/3
Mark Penney	11/3
Kim Sanders	11/18
David Robinson	11/22
Dan Calhoun	11/28
Christine Lewis	11/29

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Message from Yap (It's Where?) By Mona Valentine ; Pictures by Michael Greig

What a great time we're having in YAP! Can you say PRIMITIVE?? I strolled down to what the call the "Shopping Center" a while ago, (thinking I would find some goodies from Yap to



bring home). Ha! It's our version of the Dollar Store, and it's the highlight of their "downtown." Cool! We wanted different -- we GOT it :)

The trip here was looong (20 hours or so), but we made it fun. There are 15 of us -- all crazy divers who get along like you can't imag-

ing in over our heads, approaching a runway -- up in the air. Kinda like DFW airport (ha!) It was way cool. And, we've seen so many other exotic fish -- ones that I've never seen before (I'm finally diving the Pacific!!) The Lionfish are BEAUTIFUL, and the Clown fish (NEMO!) are simply adorable!! Visibility is fantastic, as was expected. It's pretty cool to see 15 trails of bubbles coming up from these fun, experienced divers. You always know someone is nearby, if you have a problem. So far, so good. I'm a young dog on the porch, and I definitely want to be able to run



with all the other dogs. I'm learning a lot of valuable tips and tricks from those who know it best. Yeah!

We were all told that "betel nut" was all around the island, but I never imagined how MUCH we'd see it. EVERYONE gets buzzed by this nut --- all day long! It's amazing --- and quite gross! They take this nut, open it

ine. Everyone is a jokester in their own way.

Our first dive, which was 9:30 a.m. the morning after we arrived from our 20-hour trip the evening before?!, was at a Manta Ray "cleaning station". We sat on the ocean floor while one after another of these huge Mantas came to get their gills cleaned by little Wrasses. The Mantas looked like big gray and white UFOs fly-



A Word From Your President



Phil Ray — 2004
SCUBADILLO President

Is it November already? Time flies when you're president of the best dive club in the Metroplex. It seems like just next week when a lot of us will be in Cozumel. As I talk to different people going on the trip, I realize that it will be a first for some, whether a first

blue water trip or maybe a first dive from a boat. Traveling with a group like this is a great way to pick up pointers, and **there are some pre-trip ideas that might help as well:**

1. Mark all of your gear with your initials. Most dive shops carry water-resistant markers. It's easy to get equipment mixed up on a boat or even leave it behind. Iden-

tifying your stuff will help eliminate any confusion.

2. Bring a mesh bag to hold your equipment. A bag helps organize everything, makes it easier to carry all of your gear, and keeps your stuff separate on the boat. You might bring a dry bag as well. This will keep your t-shirt, towel, money, and other personal items dry out on the water.

3. Stow your bag under a seat if possible. Keep it out of the way so that other divers don't trip over it.

4. If one of the crew sets up your scuba equipment, check to make sure that everything is right. Check the connections, check that the air is turned on, check that the tank is strapped on properly. My tank always gets set too high, and I'm just not a head banger anymore.

5. Do a buddy check. Look at your buddy's gear and have yours checked,

too. If you're having any sinus problems or anything else that might affect your dive, let your buddy know.

6. When the divemaster calls you together for a briefing, pay attention. He'll tell you the dive site name, what your depths should be, how strong the current is, what types of marine life you'll see, how long the dive should last, and how you should re-enter the boat. Again, pay attention.

7. And have a great time!!



(Continued from page 1)

up, pour some powdery stuff in it (lime coral), add a banana leaf, and then stick it in their mouths. Imagine talk-



with you. It's crazy! ALL the natives do it -- all day long. I've heard the average is

Editor's Note: Yap is located in the Western Pacific 450 miles SW of Guam and 360 miles NE of Palau. It is one of the four states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Mona Valentine wrote an email to stay in touch (which I used for the article) and Michael Greig was so gracious as to contribute these great pictures from their trip. Guys and Dolls, think about this. Instead of going to the same old places all the time, why not try something new like the Pacific! I plan to do that as soon as finances allow!

ing to someone with a huge red jawbreaker in their mouth. Ukkkk! It stains their mouth and teeth, to the point where some of the teeth in these mouths are BLACK?! I understand it's also a status

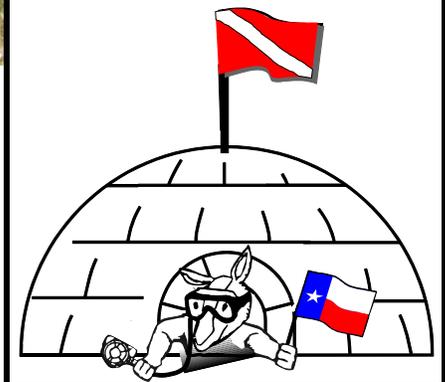


80 a day. Oh my gosh!! No wonder there's no industry around here. Everyone is stoned all the time! :)

Okay - gotta log off for now (this is really an email not a planned story) -- we're scheduled for a twilight "Mandarin" dive, (beautifully colored fish -- oranges and greens and blues -- rare to find) in about 30 minutes. Can't miss this one.

thing -- the more red the better. If you don't "chew," everyone wonders what's wrong

The Annual Arctic Dive is Coming! Watch for details in upcoming newsletters and the website!



Scubadillo Christmas Party Menu

Texas Field Greens with Roma tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, shaved Parmesan and lime dill vinaigrette...

Fire Roasted Latin vegetable pasta salad with garlic aioli...

Seared Black Pepper and cornmeal-crusteD porkloin with natural jus accompanied by Pear cranberry Chutney...

Seared Black Pepper crusted Chicken breast with natural jus accompanied by Pear cranberry Chutney...

Garlic and chive whipped potatoes...

Texas Winter vegetable medley...

Cinnamon and ginger flan...

Dillo 2004 Christmas Party! Saturday, December 4th, 2004

Mark your calendars for December 4th, 2004 for the Dillo 2004 Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party will be held at the Springpark Sports & Community Center, 3330 Springpark Way, Garland, TX, 6:30 to midnight.

Price includes: complete dinner, buffet style, prepared by the same caterer as last year! Musical entertainment by Kenny & the Kasuals! Silent Auction, Door Prizes.

IMPORTANT: Bring Your OWN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & MIXERS!!! Attire: Holiday Festive.

Prices: Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$25; After December 2nd and at the door: \$30. We need volunteers for the party so please contact Mona Valentine at monakval@hotmail.com to sign up!

2004 Dive Calendar

Dive Date

November 12-15

Event

COZUMEL!!!

Where

Cozumel, Mexico

2004 SCUBADILLO OFFICERS

PresidentPhil Ray
Vice President Sonny Gaither
Treasurer Gael Murdoch
SecretaryStacey Burton Ellis
Sgt. At Arms Steve Partain
Dir. Of Club Affairs Mona Valentine
Newsletter Editor..... June Hallman

Next Meeting: *Nomination of 2005 Officers!!*

When: Thurs, Nov. 4th, 2004 7:30 p.m. (Social Hour 6:30)

Where: Midway Point Restaurant,
NW corner of Harvest Hill & Midway

Speaker: Frank Elia of the Dallas Aquarium in Fair Park

2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All above officers, plus
Jeff Colvin
Laura Greig
Jimmy Atkinson
Anne Christenson
Bob Pederson
Jack Stroud

Upcoming Events

What: Scubadillo Christmas Party!!

When: December 4th, 2004

Where: Springpark Sports & Community Center

3330 Springpark Way, Garland, TX

See Website for additional directions, the

GREAT menu PLUS Kenny & the Kasuals!!!

What: ANNUAL Scubadillo Cozumel Trip!

When: November 12-15, 2004

Where: Cozumel (of course!) Staying at Allegro Cozumel by Occidental Resort. See details at www.scubadillo.org

Future Speakers: Throughout the year, we will be bringing you more speakers to talk about great dive sites, underwater photography, manufacturers' reps to show us the latest innovations in dive equipment and much more! Don't miss a meeting!



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