



DILLO DIVER

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A Word From Your President

August Birthdays:

Karen Gaither	08/01
Angela Krieger	08/02
Debby Travis	08/03
Jason Clifford	08/07
Sylvia McCormick	08/07
Jeff Colvin	08/10
Terry Pickl	08/13
Judy Aschner	08/23
Pam Nowell	08/25
Sophie Douet	08/27

New Members:

Deborah Dupree
Stan Hayes

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Henry Aschner—2008 Scubadillo President

Dog Days of Summer – I remember August being Dog Days, but as in past newsletters I surfed the net to find out the origin. The Dog Days of Summer is described as the name for the most sultry days of the season. (Source: Columbia Encyclopedia) “Dog Days” is the name for the most sultry period of summer, from about July 3 to Aug. 11. Named in early times by observers in countries bordering the Mediterranean, the period was reckoned as extending from 20 days before to 20 days after the conjunction of Sirius (the dog star) and the sun.

So, how do you stay cool during Dog Days? Get wet! August is traditionally Scubadillo training month, and this month we have many opportunities to get wet. Do you have your Underwater Navigation certification specialty, or would like a refresher? The Underwater Navigation course will be August 9th at Clear Springs Scuba Park. Now that we have helped you find your way underwater, how about talking with your buddy underwater! We have lined up a SeaSigns underwater communication course for mid-August. More information is in the newsletter.

And if that weren't enough, we are going to dive the Missile Silo in Abilene. If you haven't signed up yet there is still room, but you need to sign up quickly. But wait, there's more. Labor Day weekend the Dillos will make their annual trek to Lake Ouachita. This trip has grown in popularity and is close to sell out, since there is limited room on the barge. Check with our Sgt at Arms about a waiting list for cancellations.

Okay, changing gears. I was disappointed that there were not any holidays in August to discuss. Wow, was I wrong! In my web surfing I found there are many holidays in August! Did you know this was National Catfish Month and National Water Quality month? Meeting night, August 7th, is appropriately Sea Serpent Day! August also boasts National Raspberry Cream Pie Day, National Watermelon Day, Middle Child's Day, Bad Poetry Day, Blame Someone Else Day, and my new favorite is August 8th ---- “Sneak Some Zucchini on to Your Neighbor's Porch Night”! For a full list of these special August holidays go to <http://library.thinkquest.org/2886/aug.htm>.

So, stay cool, get wet, read some bad poetry to your loved one, and do some zucchini sneakin'!

Henry ><))))>

Scientists discover new reefs teeming with marine life in Brazil

Doubling the size of the southern Atlantic's largest reef system

Fort Lauderdale, FL (July 8, 2008) – Scientists announced today the discovery of reef structures they believe doubles the size of the Southern Atlantic Ocean's largest and richest reef system, the Abrolhos Bank, off the southern coast of Brazil's Bahia state. The newly discovered area is also far more abundant in marine life than the previously known Abrolhos reef system, one of the world's most unique and important reefs.

Researchers from Conservation International (CI), Federal University of Espírito Santo and Federal University of Bahia announced their discovery in a paper presented today at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Fort Lauderdale. "We had some clues from local fishermen that other reefs existed, but not at the scale of what we discovered," says Rodrigo de Moura, Conservation International Brazil marine specialist and co-author of the paper. "It is very exciting and highly unusual to discover a reef structure this large and harboring such an abundance of fish," he adds.

The Abrolhos Bank is considered one of the world's most important reefs because it harbors a high number of marine species found only in Brazil including species of

soft corals, mollusks and fish found only in the Abrolhos shelf. The *Mussismilia* coral genus, a relic group remnant of an ancient coral fauna dating back to the Tertiary period that went extinct long ago elsewhere in the Atlantic, is the dominant coral of the Abrolhos reef, which is structured in unique mushroom-like shapes.



Researchers mapped the new reef structures in areas ranging from nine to 124 miles (15 to 200 km) off the coast and in depths ranging from 60 to 220 feet (20 to 73 meters) using a side scan sonar which produces a three-dimensional map of the marine seabed.

"Due to their relative inaccessibility and depth, the newly discovered reefs are teeming with life, in some places harboring 30 times the

density of marine life than the known, shallower reefs," says Guilherme Dutra, Conservation International's director of marine programs in Brazil. "That's the good news. The bad news is that only a small percentage of marine habitats in the Abrolhos are protected, despite mounting localized and global threats."

Localized threats include over-fishing, coastal development and large scale land conversion to agriculture, shrimp farms, pollution, oil drilling and sedimentation. Global threats include climate change and ocean acidification.

Researchers acknowledged the conservation effectiveness of the present network of Marine Protected Areas in the Abrolhos. But it is very limited and not nearly enough vis-à-vis the mounting threats, they added.

The next phase of the Abrolhos project will be to study the marine life in the new reef structures.

"These studies reveal the complexity and connectivity of the reefs in the Abrolhos region and will support conservation planning," states Guilherme Dutra.





“Did you know...?”

By Wally (Waldo's cousin that taught him to dive)

Are your navigation skills so bad that you often get lost in a bathroom stall?

Well, maybe not that bad, but do you get confused about where you are if you haven't paid serious attention to your route in relation to an unfamiliar setting?

On land, you can ask for directions if you get lost (well, maybe not men, but that's a different story). But, underwater, those smart fish in schools don't seem inclined to give up directions other than which way the current is going.



Underwater navigation skills can be crucial in preventing you from ending up trying to hitch a ride on a Panamanian oil tanker after two days of drifting out in open sea after you totally missed the anchor/mooring line by a mile and surfaced to see your dive boat as just a dot in the horizon.

The Scubadillo Dive Club is planning on holding an Underwater Navigation class this month as part of the club's commitment to offering training sessions to its membership that will aid them in improving their diving skills to help ensure safe dives.

Most entry-level divers learned to follow an underwater compass in a straight direction and then return to

the starting point along a reciprocal route. This is an excellent skill when conducting a “star pattern” exploration from a fixed point like an anchor or mooring line.

As in the case of our own Flower Gardens or many other dive sites around the world where the dive boat rests in a stationary position by use of an anchor or fixed mooring line, divers can safely return to the dive boat if they always know where that line is located.

By taking a heading away from the line and then conducting a reciprocal back to the line, the divers can explore different directions of the dive site and always return to the safety of the boat. A key to accurate compass use is to always keep it level so that the floating disk doesn't get trapped against the viewing glass and give a false reading.



In the Navigation specialty class, divers learn to expand on that skill so that they can take multiple headings to reach their objectives and even use underwater formations to find their way through “natural” navigation skills without the use of a compass. “Compass? We don't need no stinkin' compass!”

In the Navigation class, divers learn to travel first in triangular and rectangular compass patterns to visit different points and still end up

at their starting place. These skills can be used in “search” patterns and expanded to include other methods of being able to search for objects in a given area.

By the end of the class, divers will be able to set their own multiple headings on a compass to find a series of objects underwater. “I'm showing that we ought to be able to descend here and follow a compass heading of 160 degrees to find that boat,” you'll be able to say.

After discovering that lost Spanish shipwreck with jillions of dollars in jewels and gold off the shore of Florida, divers will also learn “triangulation” skills that will help them find that exact spot later to retrieve their “booty” (or that great photo spot on your next dive).

The tried-but-true saying of “it's better to be safe than sorry” rings true when learning the useful skills of underwater navigation. It's not a comfortable feeling when you and you dive buddy are all alone and you give you put your hands together in the V-shaped signal of “Where's the boat” and your buddy just shrugs their shoulders. “Oh, crap,” you say into your regulator, “this could be interesting!”



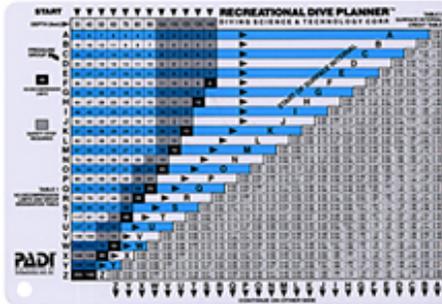
PADI Safety Recall Notice: Imperial EANx32 RDP

PADI Americas is recalling a single version of the English Imperial EANx32 Recreational Dive Planner used for calculating dive profiles. A printing error caused a series of numbers to be out of alignment, thus incorrect. The risk of injury from these errors is remote and no injuries have been reported.

All RDPs included in this recall bear the printing mark "Printed in the USA" located on the back of the table, upper right corner. The product number and production code are located on the lower right corner, also on the back of the table. The product number and production code affected by this recall are:

Product No. 60049 Ver 1.2 (Rev 02/03) XXXPDK7

The product code digits indicated by "X" may vary. The last four digits "PDK7" indicate a recalled table, irrespective of what the first three digits are.



As a double check, on Table 3, check the 110 foot row under Pressure Group G. The table should indicate a Residual Nitrogen Time (upper number in white) of 13 and an Actual Bottom Time (lower

number in green) of 12. If this box is blank, you have a misprinted table.

We will be notifying consumers certified as PADI Enriched Air Divers after 17 January 2008 via the PADI website, e-mail and other means. They will be directed to stop using the recalled RDP immediately and bring them to any PADI Dive Center/Resort or return them to PADI for a free replacement.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and ask for your assistance by including this information when you communicate with your customers. Please contact PADI Americas if you have any concerns or questions.



Upcoming Events

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 7th—This month's guest speaker is E L Dunn with a presentation on Raja Ampat.

"Meet, Greet and Eat" Social Hour starts at 6:30 pm. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm.

Next Outing

What: Valhalla Missile Silo Dive
When: Sat. Aug. 16, 11 am
Where: Abilene, TX

The Scubadillos are going to a special place in Abilene to dive the Valhalla Missile Silo!

You will get a triple diving experience: depth, altitude and cold (60°F).

Reserve your spot NOW by sending an e-mail to douet@tx.rr.com and paying your \$40 fee.

The current plan is to gather at 11 am at the Silo, have lunch and dive in the afternoon.

Next Happy Hour

Friday, August 15th 5:30-8:00pm
Details TO BE ANNOUNCED...via the website or e-mail.

Upcoming Events

08/16—Abilene Valhalla Missile Silo Day Dive

Labor Day Weekend—Lake Ouachita—We will arrive Friday evening and dive on Sat. & Sun. Spillway resort will be our base camp. If you have any questions, please contact Philippe at douet@tx.rr.com.

09/13—Boat Float Lake Lewisville

10/11-10/12—Tyler Pumpkin Dive

11/09-11/15—Tentative Live aboard

12/06—Christmas Party

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