

FOUR LAKES SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 25

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October 2004

WWW.FOURLAKESSCUBACLUB.ORG

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Meeting

Wednesday
October 13, 7:30 pm
Coliseum Bar

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Rick Kreuger Ramble

Relax with Radio Rick's Ramble: a personal and anecdotal history of Mendota & Monona through his finds and discoveries.

Rick has done quite a few salvage projects over the years, from finding someones lost anchor to a 31' Chris-Craft that sunk in Mendota in 60'. He's done over 600 dives, almost all local, over half solo, with his wife or another buddy in the boat keeping an eye on things. He was certified back in 1991, and spends a lot of time on the water looking for items sitting on the bottom using two sonar units and a drop overboard camera.

Ocean Ecological Issues

Last month Pam Blackledge, presented a case for the National Environmental Trust campaign for protective legislation. She petitioned the club to add its endorsement to this campaign. The Four Lakes SCUBA Club board met and unanimously approved this move. Thanks to Pam for bringing this opportunity to our attention. Her presentation was eloquent.

October Raffle Prize

Haunted Lakes ghost stories and an AOL signal mirror.

Underwater Hockey Schedule

Monday nights 8:00-9:00 at the McFarland High School pool. Cost is \$4 per person or less if well attended. Contact Danny Aerts, 821-0048, underwaterhockey@fourlakesclub.org. Play dates are:

October: 11, 18, 25

November: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

December: 6, 13 (20th pending.

Probably no game the 27th)
January: 3, 10, 24, 31 (no game the 17th)

Tuesday Adventure Dives

Lake Mendota only. Meet after work. Contact Ken Jungenberg for details 837-1039.

Phoenix Party

Saturday, October 16, 5 pm. Once again, it's time for the annual anchor burning ceremony. Bring your anchors, personal or for the club and see them reborn! Bring a sweet or savory tonka toaster filling (white bread provided) to make your own pie over the fire. The serious fire tenders come at 3. Bring Tonka Toasters if you have them. Dick Steinfeldt's house in Springfield, 836-6301.

Halloween

October 30, 7pm. Be sure to wear a costume to John and Ellen's haunted house. 835-9462

Kevin Willey Trip Report: Belize by Livaboard



I traveled to Belize this past summer, and dove from the Peter Hughes liveaboard *Sun Dancer II*. While I haven't traveled extensively, I can say that Belize has some of the best diving that I've experienced in the Caribbean. We even had near-perfect weather for the entire week, although there was a fairly strong wind most days. Even so, the *Sun Dancer II* is a very large (138-foot) and stable boat.

To begin with, we were met at the airport by one of the crew members, and then transported to the boat. The *Sun Dancer II* is a 10-room, 20-passenger vessel. The dive deck is on the same level as most of the passenger rooms (Main deck). The Main deck is



also where the ship's boatique is located. The middle level (Lido deck) includes the dining and entertainment area. There is seating located outside the dining room as well, and is where our pre-dive briefings were held. The top deck is a partially covered sun deck, with lounge chairs and hammocks. The boat is very spacious. The crew was always professional and very helpful throughout the entire week, and they even conducted an on-board fire drill during the week that we all had to participate in.

All divers are assigned an area on the dive deck for their gear. Each diver had two tanks available to them at their assigned spot. One tank is for nitrox, the other is for air. Your personal gear locker is located under your seat. Hanging racks and hangers are also available for wetsuits. There was plenty of room to get geared up, even with two rinse tanks, two camera rinse tanks, and two camera tables on the dive deck.

Pre-dive briefings were informative, and divemaster led dives were available at each location,

or you were free to explore the site with just your buddy. We did five dives each day: Two in the morning, two in the afternoon, and one night dive. All Peter Hughes liveaboards have a rigid hang bar



under the boat for the safety stop at the end of your dives. Because the boat would swing (quite severely at times) on its mooring in the wind, many divers enjoyed riding the hang bar for longer than the recommended three or five minutes. Riding on the bar was one thing, but trying to catch it in mid-arc was another.

After each dive, there were two showers available on the dive deck for a warm, freshwater rinse, and then a crew member would wrap a warm, dry towel over your shoulders. The diving schedule was very flexible, and we were given only two mandates each day. We needed to be out of the water by a certain time each morning and afternoon, so that lunch and dinner could be served at a set time. Hot chocolate was always waiting for us on the dive deck after the night dive. Each diver was also provided with a cotton bathrobe in his or her cabin for the week, which was very



much appreciated by most of the passengers during the cooler evenings.

The food was plentiful and good, but I didn't think that it was very diver-friendly. They served high-citrus-content fruit (oranges, pineapple) instead of cantaloupe or bananas. The meals were very greasy, and we would very often taste them again while on a dive. This is not to say that the food tasted bad, it was just not very diver-friendly. We only had one good, solid meal on the boat, but it was our final dinner after arriving back in Belize City at the end of the week.

We did one dive in the Blue Hole on Wednesday, and this was the only dive where they required that all nitrox divers switch over to their standard air cylinder, due to the depth of the dive. After diving the Blue Hole, we had a picnic lunch on Half Moon Cay. Half Moon Cay is a Natural Monument, and is considered a World Heritage Site. Our stop on the island included a short walking tour where we were able to view the Red-Footed Booby and the Magnificent Frigatebird from an elevated observation deck.

For our final afternoon in Belize City, tours were available for folks to visit an ancient Mayan ruin, or you could visit the Belize Zoo. Nearby shopping was available, or you could simply hang out on the boat. Transportation was provided back to the airport the following day, based on your scheduled flight times.

New York Times

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) -- The University of Rhode Island has designed a voyage to the bottom of the sea for students in an emerging field of scientific exploration -- archaeological oceanography. Graduates of the new five-year program will get a master's degree in history and a doctorate in oceanography. Five students were accepted for this year, and have already begun classes.

"It's a bringing together of two worlds that historically have not granted joint degrees," said Robert Ballard, the underwater explorer who discovered the Titanic and the program's creator. "They're about as far apart as you can take two sciences and bring them into one."

Only about 5 percent of the world's oceans have been explored, and much of the underwater archaeology, including exploring submerged cities and shipwrecks, has taken place in shallow waters. The university program plans to take archaeology deeper. Technological advances with unmanned deep-sea submersibles and robotic excavators sensitive enough to handle artifacts much like a human would on land have invigorated the drive to explore what lies at the bottom of the world's oceans.

The students selected for the program say they're attracted to it because of its novelty, and the opportunity to be part of major expeditions. Next summer, the group is scheduled to

assist Ballard and other scientists in searches for Phoenician and Minoan ships in the Mediterranean. They'll also help with studies of hydrothermal vents and deep-sea corals in the North Atlantic Ocean. "I think that it's time that we put those tools to use that we have for other sciences ... to go look for things that actually mean something to human history," said Katy Croff. The 26-year-old has an undergraduate degree in ocean engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in maritime archaeology from the University of Southampton in England. Other students have undergraduate or graduate degrees in subjects including anthropology, geology, marine science and maritime history. Ballard said they're special because they have a background in human history and an academic foundation in physical sciences. "I was looking for crossover students," he said. The university, with its main campus in South Kingstown, has billed the program as the only one of its kind. Other schools offer graduate degrees in archaeology and oceanography, though none has rolled them into one formal curriculum, the university says.

Bonnie Clendenning, executive director at the Archaeological Institute of America, said the school is capitalizing on its strength in ocean sciences, while adding archaeology to the mix. "That would make a great deal

of sense for them to do this," she said.

A few other schools have similar credentials. Texas A&M University, for example, has a graduate program in nautical archaeology with about 10 new students each year. It also offers advanced degrees through its oceanography department. The school, in College Station, Texas, has asked the state's Board of Regents to create a Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation that would somewhat resemble the archaeology oceanography program at URI, said Donny Hamilton, head of the nautical archaeology program at Texas A&M.

The main difference is that the

coursework would concentrate mostly on shipwrecks in shallow water, where extensive excavations can be done, said Hamilton, an archaeologist for nearly 30 years. URI's program is predicated on exploring deep water environments.

"To what degree is (archaeological oceanography) archaeology when you go down in a submersible, and you can only (retrieve) two pieces?" Hamilton said. "They call it archaeology, but I like it hands-on. Theirs is hands-on, but with a remote control arm." The distinction doesn't matter much to Alicia Coles, whose parents told her about the program after reading about it in URI's alumni magazine.

"We're doing something that nobody has done before," said the 26-year-old University of Nebraska graduate with a masters in anthropology. "That kind of ranks you up there with people who have gone to space or (on) some other exploration."

Calendar 2004

October 16 - Phoenix Party

Dick Steinfeld's

October 27 - Board Meeting

Home of Betsy & Danny True-Aerts

October 30 - Halloween Party

John and Ellen's



November 10 Meeting:

George Socha Travels



December 8 Winter Party

Four Lakes SCUBA Club

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