

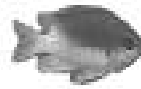


Vice President
 Mike Minges
 (910) 278-4358

Treasurer
 Brenda Vrooman
 (910)842-8390

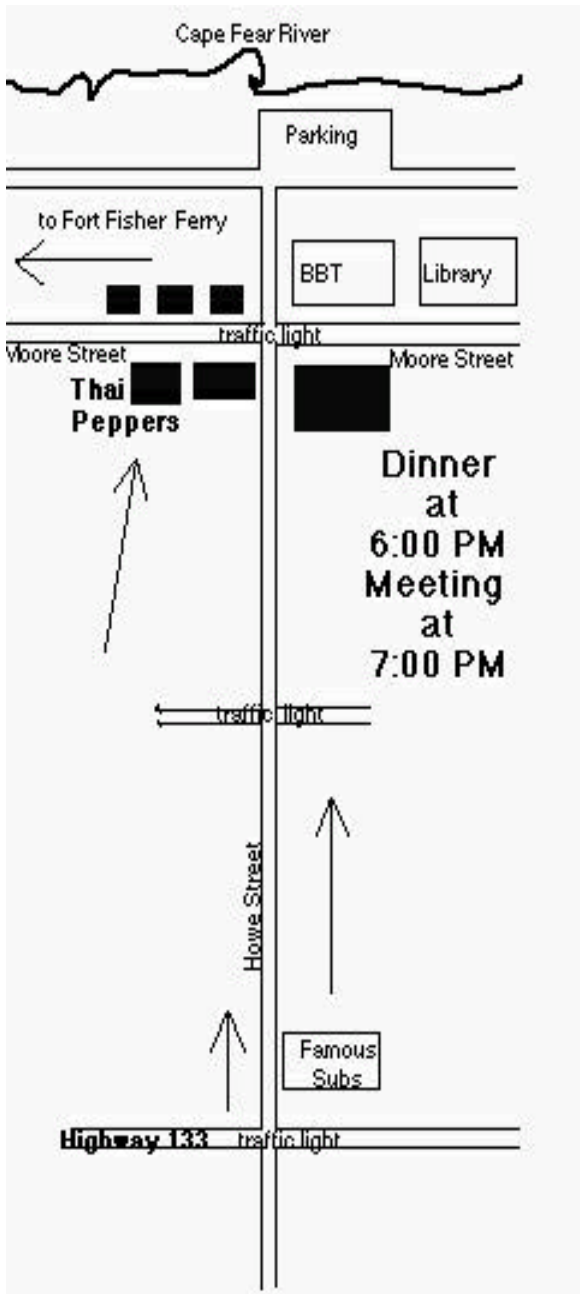
President

Steve Bland
 (910) 371-3233



Secretary
 Sally Thomas
 (910)457-9557

Newsletter
 Bryan Woodard
 (910)457-4358



Through My Mask

by Steve Bland

Well, after more than a little jostling, we finally got fed at our last club meeting. It seems that Thai Peppers' cook was stuck somewhere in New England due to the ice storms. We ended up at Port Charlie's for seafood.

I do not remember falling down or anyone laughing at my first attempt at the president's slot. Guess that means it went all right.

Our guest speaker was Ed Skidgell from Olympus dive Center in Morehead City. He gave an interesting talk on their favorite dive locations followed by a promo video about the diving and the dive center. Ed even donated the tape to the club. It runs for 30 minutes and gives an overview of some of the popular dive sites off Morehead. Bryan has the the tape, so give him a call 457-4358 or see him at the next meeting if you want to see the video. One statistic Ed mentioned was astounding. It seems Morehead City has been rated the number one dive site on the East Coast! That was by Rodale's Scuba Diver Magazine based on a reader survey. We beat out the Florida Keys. Makes me wonder: 1) Are the Keys getting over dived; 2) Are more divers turning to tech dives for the challenges; 3) Are we finally getting well known?

The club's agenda for the year is starting to solidify. The first ideas put forward dealt with more training, club dives, and parties. A show of hands indicated a desire for an advanced open water class and a basic nitrox class. When the rather heated discussion on club dives was over, it boiled down to a reluctance to commit club funds for an entire boat based on the large number of variables involved. But, we still want to dive together. Answer: get a list of destinations agreed on; then anyone interested in that dive that day can make a call and get in on a car pool or just reserve a seat on the boat



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7:00 p.m. at Thai Peppers
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Southport**

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That leads us into the idea of reestablishing the committees for dives and social events. To that end, anyone interested in helping to pick dates and destinations is invited to a special meeting at Thai Peppers on February 16. Also bring a list of your favorite dive sites to the regular February meeting.

We will need to confirm the party, so be thinking on that also. Call Brenda with any outstanding ideas. One last note. Dues are due.

Thanks for bearing with me.
Steve

Minutes From the Last Meeting by Sally Thomas

Old Business:

- Bryan reported that the party recommended at the last meeting for celebrating a positive balance in the treasury has not been scheduled. The Gauntlet is no longer available for such events. Members present all agreed that Port Charlie's was worth considering. Contact Brenda with suggestions.
- The July 4 parade was discussed. Fred Walker offered to have McDonald's sponsor the proposed float. Trex was unofficially appointed chairman.
- Our new web site will be on-line shortly. It will consist of seven pages, including a calendar of events, e-mail addresses of officers, and quite a bit more.

New Business:

- Bob Beason announced an upcoming group event to Anthony's Key Resort on Roatan May 9-16. Deadline to register is the end of March. Due to Hurricane Mitch, they have a "two for the price of one" special this year. It is a splendid destination. Interested divers should call Bob at 392-0225

- President Steve Bland requested input from the membership regarding what the club can become. Specific focus should be on chartering boats, walk-on dive trips, socials, continued dive training (nitrox, advanced, reef fish identification). The club would rather organize walk-on dives as chartering can be a costly mistake.

Program:

- Our guest speaker was Ed Skidgell from Olympus Dive center in Morehead City. He gave an excellent presentation of Olympus's services and dive charters.

Speaker for January 1999

Mr. Waters is a former spotter plane pilot for the NC Menhaden fleet. He was the first to mark from the air and then dive many of the Civil War casualty wrecks. He will share with us the adventure of the early days of NC diving when loran, satellite navigation, and dive computer were not even a dream. And wet suits came in only three sizes and one color..black.



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East Carolina Underwater Archaeology

By Brenda Varooman

I recently acquired a copy of a publication from East Carolina University called *Stern to Stern*. This was published by the Maritime Program Studies and had several interesting articles. The following is an article that I found interesting and thought others might also. It was written by the president of the Maritime Studies Association, Rod Linder.

The Search for the Fortuna

On the evening of September 3 1748 two Spanish privateers, sailing from Havana with a captured sloop from South Carolina, approached Fort Johnston on the Cape Fear River. With darkness descending, the ships anchored outside the bar rather than attempt to navigate the channel at night. The following morning two unsuspecting pilots went on board to guide the ships through the channel and on to Fort Johnston. The Spanish hoped to capture slaves working on the fort, but were met with bitter disappointment when they realized it was Sunday and work on the fort had been halted. Discovering their mistake, they coerced the two pilots into guiding them up the river to Brunswick where the majority of the slaves had been taken. The ships anchored in front of the town and opened fire without warning. "The Commodore was a large sloop named the *Fortuna*, of 130 tons with 10 six pounders and 14 swivels commanded by Vincent Lopez. During the ensuing battle, on September 6, the *Fortuna* and 90 members of her crew, including Captain Lopez, met their fate when the ship blew up and sank to the bottom of the river where she lies to this day. In the past thirty years several attempts have been made to locate the remains of the *Fortuna*. Rod Linder a graduate student in the Maritime Studies Program, has coordinated the project as part of his thesis research. The tentative date for the field work on the project is scheduled for the last week in April and will include remote sensing and ground-truthing of the search area in the Cape Fear River off Brunswick Town.

Get on line with Maritime Listserv.

Anyone with an interest in ECU's Program in Maritime Studies who has access to the internet has a way to keep in touch with the program activities. MARITIME is an un-moderated listserv for students, faculty, staff, alumni, prospective students and any other interested persons. The content of the list includes: announcements and information for students; relevant job listings; new print, personal and electronic resources students might find valuable; information on the program alumni; and discussion of issues relevant to students and others interested in maritime studies program. Within a day of the announcement of the list, it had nearly fifty subscribers in over ten countries.

MARITIME particularly seeks input from program alumni and others who can provide comments and discussion for students currently enrolled in the maritime program. Peter McCracken, reference librarian at ECU's Joyner Library and maritime graduate student manages the listserv. Anyone interested in joining Maritime can do so by sending an email that reads: "SUB MARITIME first-name last-name" to listserv@ecuvms.cis.ecu.edu. You will receive a confirmation message, and after replying you will be a member of the list. You also can get information about the Maritime Studies Program online at www.ecu.edu/maritime/.



Make Your Mask Trouble Free

by Jon Hardy
reprint from Rodale's Scuba diving
Web page

Ten steps selecting the right mask

1. Define your needs and preferences: Do you want a clear or opaque mask? Two lenses or three? Prescription or nonprescription? High or low-volume? With purge or without?



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2. At the store the 'sniff test' is **not** the place to start. Without using the strap and without inhaling, look straight up and gently place the mask on your face. It should rest comfortably and evenly, contouring to your face with no gaps. Have someone else also look for gaps.
3. Now place a regulator mouthpiece in your mouth. While still looking up, there should be no gaps. Again, have someone else also look for gaps.
4. Without using the strap, place the mask on your face while looking forward. Gently inhale a small amount. The mask should stay in place. A strong inhalation could close minor leaks and make it an invalid test.
5. With your regulator mouthpiece in your mouth, repeat the sniff test. Gently still no leaks? Still comfortable? Keep going.
6. Using the strap, adjust for the best fit. Check to see how easy the straps are to adjust when the mask is in place. If you normally dive with gloves and hood, try this adjustment with these items on.
7. The mask should fit without touching the tip or bridge of your nose, or being uncomfortable in the area between your nose and upper lip.
8. With regulator in, again check the nose.
9. With reg still in place, try using the nose pocket to equalize with one hand. It should be easy to do with one hand and not hurt your nose.
10. It at all possible, try your best two or three masks in the pool or open water.

Why a Mask Leaks

There are six basic reasons your mask may spring a leak:

1. It is the wrong size or shape for your face;
2. It is adjusted too tightly or too loosely;
3. It has a defect in the purge valve or where a lens seats in the body;
4. There is something under the seal such as hair or part of your hood;
5. Facial hair prevents a good seal;
6. Smile lines and facial movement break the seal.

With proper fit, adjustment and care, most of these problems can be solved. Not putting gloves on until just before you enter the water allows you to feel, adjust and ensure a seal with your mask. Regarding facial hair, you have two choices: shave it or use food-grade silicone to help seal the area where the mask rests on this hair. Finally, sometimes the price you pay for smiling and laughing under water is the need to clear your mask.



Hog Snapper

CAPE FEAR DESCENDERS 1998 Member Survey

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|
| Name | | Member Since | |
| Diving Status | Beginner | Advanced | Intermediate |
| Number of Dives | in 1998 | | Instructor |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|----|------------------------|----|
| Did you dive locally in 1998? | yes | no | How many dives? | |
| In 1998 did you dive outside the area? | yes | no | How many times? | |
| Destination? | | | | |
| Would you recommend this location to club members? | | | yes | no |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Are there any guest speakers you especially liked in 1998? | |
| Are there any topics you would like to know more about? | |
| Is there anyone you would be interested in seeing as a speaker in 1999? | |
| Would you be interested in club picnics? | yes no |
| Club charters? | yes no |
| Would you be interested in helping coordinate any club activities? | yes no |
| Have you taken any diver education classes in 1998? | yes no |
| What course? Who was the instructor? | |
| Did you hear about this course through the club? | |
| Have you purchased any new equipment? | yes no |
| Type of equipment purchased? | |
| Would you recommend to other club members? | yes no |

| |
|---|
| What would you like to see the club offer in 1999? |
| |

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Additional Comments? |
| |
| |
| |

Please return all surveys to Brenda at Cape Fear Descenders. We are going to compile this information together and insert in the club web page. Anyone with any ideas let us know.



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MEMBER BENEFITS

- Newsletter Keeps you abreast of local diving information including offshore charters, lake activities, meetings and social gatherings.
- Educational There will be interesting and educational guest speakers at each monthly meeting plus seminars and speciality courses.
- Charters Cape Fear Descenders will work hard to book comfortable boats to exciting offshore wrecks. Charter costs are usually less than typical walk- on rates.
- Socials Throughout the year the club will sponsor social events such as picnics, quarry days, and the holiday banquet. These events should draw good crowds, good company and good fun.

Club membership is based on the calendar year January 1st, through December 31st. Membership dues are payable January 1st. There is a grace period that extends through March.

CLUB DIVING INSTRUCTORS

| | | |
|------------------|------|----------------|
| Tom Roberson | PADI | 457-4776 |
| Wayne Strickland | NAUI | 457-5201 |
| Jeff Marlow | PADI | (910) 799-1794 |
| Cheryl Smith | PADI | (910) 793-9799 |
| Richard Mathews | PADI | (910) 686-9290 |

DESCENDERS' LOG

**PO Box 11123
Southport , NC 28461**

