

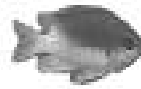


**Vice President**  
 Mike Minges  
 (910) 278-4358

**Treasurer**  
 Brenda Vrooman  
 (910)842-8390

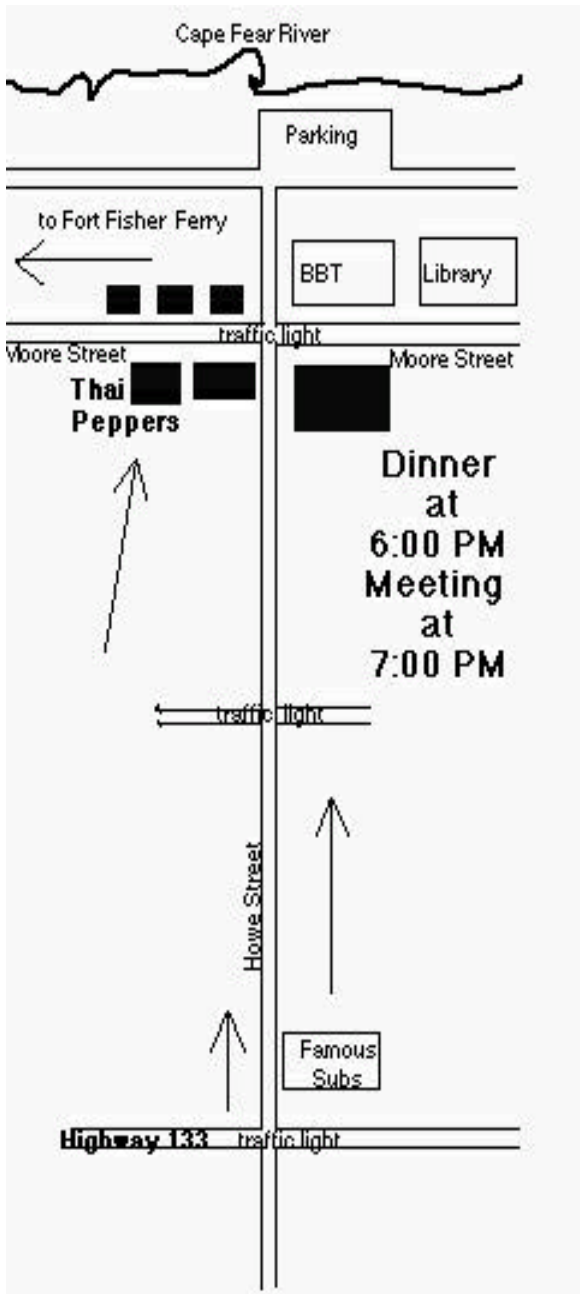
**President**

Steve Bland  
 (910) 371-3233



**Secretary**  
 Sally Thomas  
 (910)457-9557

**Newsletter**  
 Bryan Woodard  
 (910)457-4358



**Through My Mask**

by Steve Bland

Lots of good times are coming our way. The Southport marina gave permission to use their grills for our socials, and the dive calendar is filling out and up.

The event that promises the most fun is the Skills Review Day at Boilings Springs Lakes, May 15th (see Map). Cheryl Smith will do an Open Water skills review, Tom Roberson will review Advanced Open Water and Night Diving Skills, and Scott Fowler will do Search and Recovery/Rescue skills. These will be Reader's Digest versions of the classes. This is a chance for newbies to see what diving is all about and a chance for club members to practice skills from mask clearing and navigation to rescuing an unconscious diver: skills that often go unused and untested in our day to day diving.

Dick Atkinson is heading up this year's social committee. Food and drink for the picnics at Southport Marina and at the Skills Day outing will be provided by the club. Dick and his committee members will arrange for the eats. They will need to know about how many plan to attend so **PLEASE RSVP** to Dick, Steve, or Bryan. If you are on the internet, just click on the club web site and go the officers' page to e-mail your RSVP to Bryan. It only takes a minute and would be a big help in putting these parties together for you.

Rodale Press publishes a fine dive magazine for divers. They have a cool web site and are expanding into the dive club related areas. They are presently putting together a web page listing all the dive clubs in the country! Rodale's is offering clubs that join promotional packages for interested persons, free gifts for club raffles, and talks by industry researchers. In return they want the club to provide a mail list of its members. Remember the no free lunch rule? At the March meeting we came up with the following solution



**Next meeting: April 13 at 7:00  
p.m. at Thai Peppers  
Restaurant 115 Moore Street,  
Southport**

## **DESCENDERS' LOG**

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We will poll the members over the next couple of meetings for those who do not mind being on a modified mail list that will be send to Rodale. Members who want to preserve their privacy do not have to add their names to the list. If you are not going to be at a meeting in the near future and don't mind having your name on the list that will go to Rodales please contact me or Bryan.

### **Minutes From the Last Meeting**

**by Brenda L. Vrooman**

About 16 members attended the February meeting

Old Business:

- Board of Directors agreed that the club would send DAN, Divers Alert network, a \$100 donation.
- Steve Bland started the meeting by telling members about the club dive scheduled for April 24 at the Hebe, Bottle Wreck. It is \$90 per diver. There is space available, but April 13 is the absolute last date for reserving a space. Contact Jerry Holden or Bryan Woodard.

New Business:

- Scott Fowler spoke about the possibly having the club raise money for R.E.E.F. (The Reef Environmental Education Foundation) REEF is a non-profit organization of recreational divers who regularly conduct fish surveys during their dives. The data from these surveys goes in to a growing data base that is being used to track the health of reef world wide. A REEF tee shirt was raffled off at the end of the meeting. Scott suggested we combine a picnic/dive day with a survey. Our club can be listed at the REEF Foundations and REEF will provide a link to our web site. Scott handed out REEF Brochures and membership cards. You can also get additional information from our very own Trex Thomas who has participated in several survey efforts with REEF down in Florida.

Program:

- Doug Kesling gave an exciting slide show on "The Similarities of Astronauts and Aquanauts." Including the suits, equipment, life support habitats of each and how they developed. Doug talked about the contrast between our knowledge of the earth's oceans where only 5% of the ocean floor is mapped, not much considering 70% of the planet is water, and the entire planet of Venus that is mapped in minute detail. He also discussed the similarities between the life support problems faced by Astronauts and divers. Divers working for NASA and the Aquarius undersea habitat program are currently working on diving physiology and engineering problems that will directly effect astronauts and the success of the space program.
- The *Aquarius* habitat that Doug is involved with can provide life support for a crew of divers for missions that last from 10 to 30 days with the divers working 3 to 6 hours in the water each day. The *Aquarius* crew size and mission duration is very similar to that of a space shuttle mission but the money spent on one space mission would fund the Aquarius habitat for about 800 years.
- NASA recently verified the presence of water in the form of ice crystals on the moon. No dive trips however are planned at this time.

### **Club Goes on Line with New Website**

**[www.bcinet.net/cfddiveclub](http://www.bcinet.net/cfddiveclub)**



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## DESCENDERS' LOG

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### Treasurer's Report

By Brenda L. Vrooman

We're headed into April, and the bank account is showing \$873.28. There are still members with outstanding 1999 dues.

\$100 has been mailed to DAN renewing our club sponsorship.

We have a few club tee shirts remaining. They are 100% Hanes cotton.

By the way, someone tell this awful weather to disappear. Its diving time!!!!

### Do You Speak Fish

By Scott Fowler

Reef Environmental Education Foundation(REEF) does and so can you. REEF has several programs that educate new and experienced divers to the many diverse species and families of tropical reef fish. Several ID books including Paul Humann's *Reef fish Identification* (the bible of fish watching), a wonderful CD ROM with learning games, and ID slates are also available through REEF or your local dive shop to help you "learn the language" REEF has also teamed up with PADI to offer an exciting new specialty: *Project Aware/Reef Fish Identification*. After some class time to learn ID techniques and a few dives to practice what you have learned, you'll be speaking fish with the experts.

REEF is much more however. It is a non-profit organization of recreational divers who regularly conduct fish surveys during their dives. The information gathered during these surveys is entered into a large database, which is used by researchers, scientists, and institutions all over the world. membership with REEF is free. With your membership, you will receive a membership card with your personal research number. a newsletter, computer scan sheets and survey instructions.

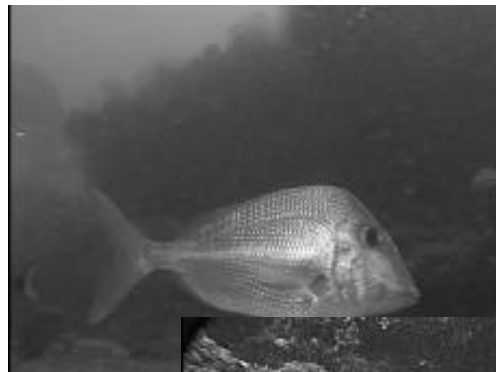
Interested? It's easy to get started. Just take an

introductory fish ID course to learn about the fascinating world of life under the sea. Then whenever you dive, simply record on your survey slate the names and relative abundance of all the fish you see during your dive. Afterwards, you log your fish sightings on a special computer scan sheet and send it to the REEF headquarters in Key Largo Florida. Your fish and dive information will then be entered under your research number into the data base—and just like that you have made a difference.

After a few dives you will find yourself searching for those hard to find fish that have not been added to your life list of fish sighted. You may even find yourself traveling to a specific location just to see and ID that special fish. It's a fun way to go on a hunt while helping the environment.

If you would like to take part in a fish ID course, a survey dive or if you would like more information on REEF, Please feel free to contact me at (910) 815-3736, I also have information on how to join REEF and fundraising information as well.

Tired of just blowing bubbles when you dive? Start making your dives count! Learn to speak fish today.





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## DESCENDERS' LOG

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### 1999 Club Activities Calendar

The fourth weekend of the month has been designated a club dive weekend. Members who would like to plan a dive for the fourth weekend in April or July for example, should contact Bryan Woodard. He will act as a point of contact for everyone who wants to dive that weekend. The members who attended the meeting on February 16 worked out a plan for the following dives. Members who would like to be included on these dives should contact Bryan, Steve Bland or Jerry Holden.

**Saturday April 24** — Dive to the Hebe. from Little River, South Carolina. Jerry is contacting charter boats and will have the cost at the next meeting.

Members signed on to date:

Jerry Holden  
Bryan Woodard  
Steve Bland  
Vicki Merbler

**Sunday May 23**— Dive to the John Gill and Ledges from Wrightsville Beach. Charter will depend on how many people are interested.

Members signed on to Date

Jerry Holden  
Bryan Woodard  
Vicki Merbler

**Saturday June 26** —night dive to SW Frying Pan Tower reef.

Members signed on to Date

Jerry Holden  
Bryan Woodard  
Vicki Merbler

Saturday/Sunday August 28&29— Morehead city Olympus diving.

Members signed on to date

Jerry Holden

So who wants to go diving!!!

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#### Club Picnics

Sunday April 18 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

Saturday June 19 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

Sunday August 22 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

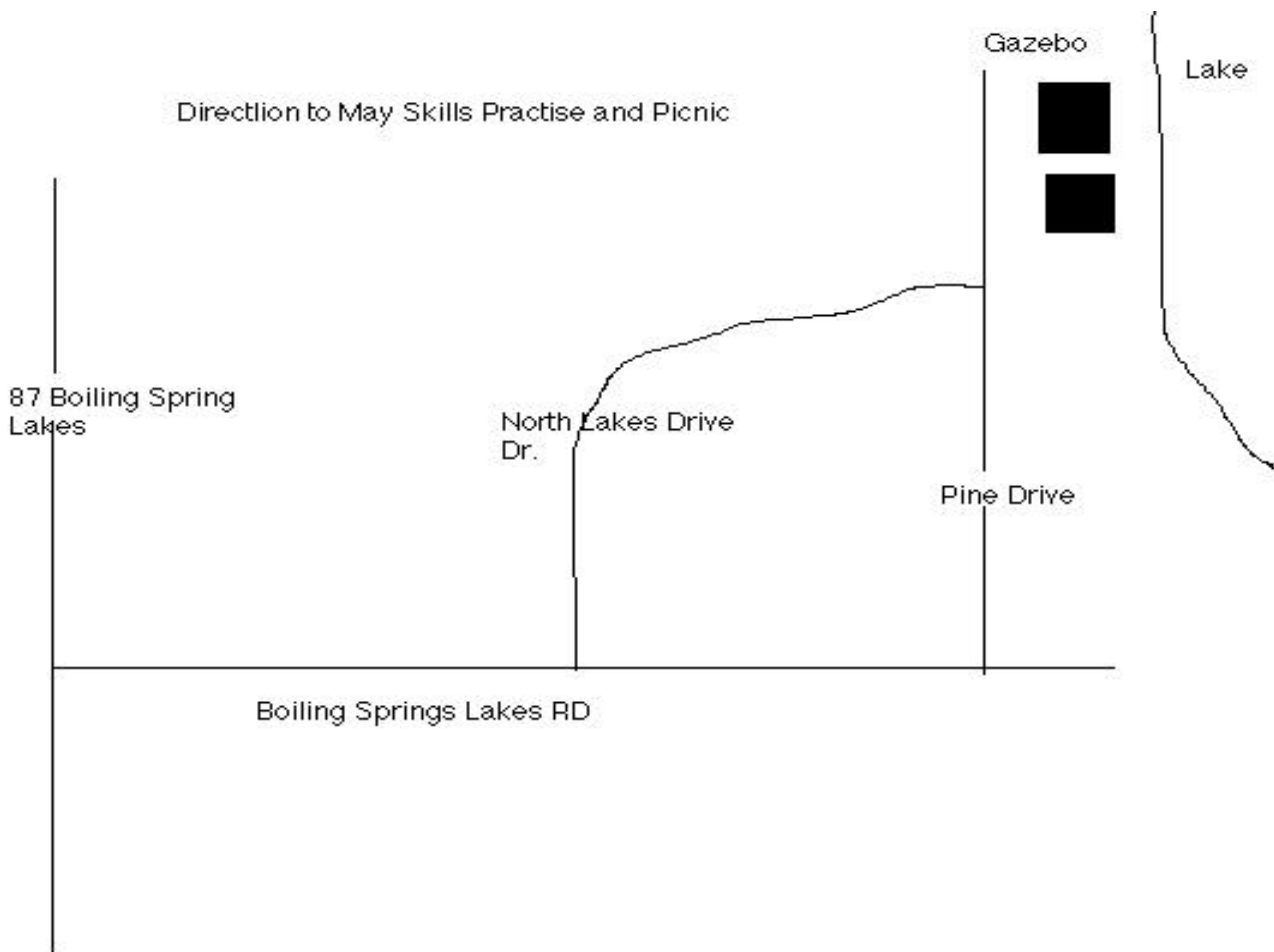
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**Skills Day May 15** from 12:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m.

A day to review skills, practise emergency procedures and have a picnic

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**Did you ID the fish on page 3 ??**  
**They are both members of th Porgy Family**  
**The top picture is a Saucereye Porgy**  
**The Bottom picture is a Sheepshead**





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## **DESCENDERS' LOG**

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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
Scott Fowler	PADI	(910)815-3736

## **DESCENDERS' LOG**

**PO Box 11123  
Southport , NC 28461**

