

DESCENDERS' LOG March 2001  
Volume 5, Issue 2

"President's Remarks"

I want to thank everyone for the huge turnout at the last meeting, we actually ran out of tables. We covered a lot of upcoming programs for 2001, and introduced some of our committee members, Trex Thomas will handle our "Dive Education". He will be looking for members to help out, so give him a call if you would like to help. Pete

Moody and Austin are going to handle our "Dive Trips", which is no easy task. Any one wishing to go on any of the dive trips should let them know ASAP. I think our March meeting will prove to be quite interesting, as we have scheduled some speakers from the Myrtle Beach Aquarium to talk, I know what they will discuss will interest you.

Well, the dive season is just around the corner, and I hope everyone has a good season and a safe one.

Remember if you have a boat and want to get a dive going, we have plenty of members ready to go with you.

. Looks like things are moving along well.

the "February Meeting..." (minutes)

...at Thai Peppers was well attended. Dennis presented his incentive proposal that "for every meeting a member attends, a \$5 credit will apply toward the cost of any club dive trip or activity up to 50% of the cost of that event" Pete Moody moved and John Hudson seconded to approve this proposal. Sign-in attendance sheets will be needed at each meeting and we will include members' tallies in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Divers' Ed: Trex will set up medic first aid and O2 provider courses to be offered this season.

Dive committee: Pete Moody and Alston Trent will organize one or two local dives; one in state and one out of state travel dives. They are getting their heads together for a June dive.

Social: April or May BBQ in planning stages.

Julep Gillman-Bryan will present a program with slides and artifacts from "The Queen Anne's Revenge" possibly in April... fascinating underwater archeology. She really has enough to cover two meetings.

For the March program two people from the Myrtle Beach Aquarium will make a presentation, they have a new program involving divers which sounds like something our members just might want to participate in.

T-shirts, one size left (38/40 long sleeve) from our earlier project, are now \$10 each. A quick \$20 was made at the meeting. If members have extra gear, we could resurrect a section for "dive equipment sales"... but you have to e-mail Sally at the address in the little box on page 1 at least 10 days prior to the next meeting to have your stuff included.

Newsletter committee: four volunteers have agreed to submit articles for the newsletter as follows: Jeff Marlow, May; Vickie Merbler, August; Pete Moody, June; Bryan Woodard, July. Again, these offerings must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the next meeting which is usually the last week of the month before. Of course, this does not mean that other paragraphs would not be welcome. The more variety we have, the better for the newsletter... (sounds like a plan). Choose a month. You may write an account of a recent dive, a dive you would like to do, or a description of a fish confrontation, dumb things you did and will never do again ... your imagination is the only limit.

"Aquatic Safaris..."

... responded to our e-mail query

"We're very happy that Cape Fear Descenders is interested in the Safari Hunt. We're trying very hard to make this one the best ever. The date is Saturday, May 5th." By the way, their address is [aquaticsafaris.com](http://aquaticsafaris.com). A nice site to visit to see what Capt. Roy and Capt. Paul are up to... and we will certainly talk about this event at our next meeting.

"Old Business...."

....from the board

- A current file of member's information is needed. Therefore, we ask that you complete the updated application form included in the February newsletter and send it along with your 2001 dues to PO Box 11123. These need to be paid before mid March or the April newsletter may not appear in your mailbox. We have already received a dozen or so... where's yours?
- Out of town dives suggested include: the Fantasy Lake in Raleigh... water temp is 76 with a thermocline of +40, but August sounds like a good month and it's a great fresh water destination; the Keys or Ft. Myers on "The Ultimate Getaway" which leaves Thursday afternoon for the Dry Tortugas and returns Sunday.. just a long weekend and by November, we'll be ready for that; in June let's organize and off-shore group trip.
- Fund raising ideas in addition to members dues: we will sell the remaining t-shirts, and perhaps design some jewelry... one-of-a-kind-gotta-haves.
- We are looking for people host each of our planned socials; one in the spring, summer, and Christmas. That's three... only three.

a list of local dive shops and outing schedules could flesh out our choices.... and Aquatic Safaris has a long list on their web site.

"Blackbeard's Cruises..."

Dennis was talking to Mary Larcinese the other day, and she has booked a dive trip with "Blackbeard's Cruises" for May 12 to the 18, the price is \$750.00 a person, she says there is still a lot of openings. If she cannot make it to the March meeting, he will have more information on the cruise. Several of our members have sailed this trip in the past and recommend it... especially because it is a tropical adventure that is fairly close to home and comparatively inexpensive. [Www.blackbeard-cruises.com](http://www.blackbeard-cruises.com) will get you there too.

"Non-dive outing..."

...for your dining pleasure

the "Dixie Stampede" was mentioned as a possible non-dive outing, the response was a bit tepid, but more information may generate more interest. The cost is \$30.36 a person, and we need a minimum of 20 people for that break. As of now all dates are open in May for the 6:00 (or 6:30) show.

"A Voice we're glad..."

...to hear from

John Rores is in Charleston working a diving job and will be there until August or September. He says that he has been diving up in Portsmouth VA and now in Charleston. Both jobs on Coast Guard bases. Nice to get paid to dive in water that is 400 with 6 inch viz. Bryan says in so many words 'not for him' (those weren't the words).

"Memorable Check-out Dive..."

...Dennis

Well, I would have to say one of the most memorable dives I made had to be my last check-out dive back in the late 80s. It was Labor Day weekend and we just finished our last open water dive at the East Rockaway inlet and Beach 8th Street at around 4pm. When we noticed the fin of a dolphin, a Bottle Nose, it was in the inlet about 50 yards from us. We watched it head up the inlet when, after a sharp right turn, it beached itself. We picked up our gear, got in our cars and crossed the bridge to the beach on the other side. There on the beach was about an 8 - 10' dolphin. It took all nine of us to drag it into the shallow water. We all took turns cradling it and keeping it wet while we waited for a marine biologist team to arrive from the Coney Island Aquarium. It took about three hours for them to arrive. The dolphin had some deep gashes on its back and side. We thought it might be from a boat prop or gill net. About a half hour after the Coney Island people arrived, the dolphin gave a swish with its tail, set two guys flying, and took off up the inlet. By this time the Nassau County Police marine units and Coast Guard were on station keeping boaters

away... good timing. The dolphin took a U-turn and headed back out to sea accompanied by applause and cheers.

I can't tell you the feeling I had holding that dolphin. It seemed to know we were there to help, so it stayed calm and rested until it gathered enough strength to make it back out to sea. Of all the dives I have done or will do in the future, I don't think I will ever be that close to such a magnificent animal again, or experience the emotional high it gave me.

"Point Count..."...to date

which really means those members who have a head start on the bonus bucks for upcoming dive events. Now, if your dues are not paid, the points are meaningless.... but we assume these folks will be in good standing by the April meeting: (ahem)

Jenny Allen

Please take a minute  
to fill out the  
dive membership form  
included in the  
February newsletter  
(we have more)  
Send it along with your  
2001 dues to our  
PO Box 11123

~~better yet~~

Jim Atack

Kathy Atack

Janet Beason

Joe Davis

Julep Gillman-Bryan

Peter Gillman-Bryan

John Hudson

Jeff Marlow

Jim Martin

Vicki Merbler

Yvonne Moody

Pete Moody

Joe Pakan

Dennis Ruocco

Maureen Ruocco

Trex Thomas

Sally Thomas

Alston Trent

Bryan Woodard